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Fwd: MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

1 message

Michael Affeldt <michael.affeldt@lacity.org>

Tue, May 28, 2019 at 3:38 PM

To: Skyler Gray <skyler.gray@lacity.org>

FYI

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From: **Riki Esquer** <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 10:55 AM

Subject: Fwd: MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

To: MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services) <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

LA Daily News

Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles

at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised \$2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving \$1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

1 message

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Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses](#)
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[LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain](#)
[REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president](#)
[REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks](#)
[NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday](#)
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LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

“Very little in the way of educational activity,” Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. “At one point, they tried to show the movie ‘Christopher Robin,’ but the sound quality was so bad it couldn’t be understood. Couldn’t read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything.”

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. “We kept him home today,” she said of her son, “and probably will for the rest of the week.”

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers “heroes.”

“Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids’ side,” García said. “We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike.”

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

“As I’ve said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I’ll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this,” he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

“This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles,” said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of “looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We’ve got to change that.”

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad

in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with

the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve.”

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them “the unsung heroes of American democracy.”

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union’s goals made for a “righteous cause.”

Garcetti’s comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can’t antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because

the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and

librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At a school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and

infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." <https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstitute negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president

of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodman, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodman, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st

Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,'" said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauder

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take

my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group

As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone

By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest

services.”

The warrant also seeks “all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors” and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others “assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes.”

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, “the scandal is what’s legal.”

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used “straw donors” to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The “Committee for a Safer Los Angeles” was an entity called an “independent expenditure committee.” Garcetti’s adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was “barely aware” of it and had “nothing” to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of “behested payments,” unlimited contributions that are made at the “behest” of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has “behested” over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the “Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles,” and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the “Los Angeles Parks Foundation” at Garcetti’s request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price “behested” over \$245,000 for the “Coalition for Responsible Community Development,” which has a stated mission to “improve local planning.”

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he’d have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that’s about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for

three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really “cost-neutral” as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, “because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants.”

“It’s frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on,” said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. “The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments,” Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I’m not actually sure that’s true. Democrats might not have an “inevitable” frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our “five corners” series on the Democratic field, you’re going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The “five corners” refers to what we claim are the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three

of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a

large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance. It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch #WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothe polls.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

1 message

Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED] Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 3:43 AM
To: Carolyn comcast [REDACTED], Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED], MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

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[Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly](#)
[Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly](#)
[Normalizing The Chaos In California](#)
[Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President](#)
[Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices](#)

Daily News

LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council appears set to pass a resolution today that would keep the city pursuing host city duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when some potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council, but those issues appear to have been negated after some sports companies in Los Angeles, including Anschutz Entertainment Group and the Los Angeles Football Club, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract.

The LLC will "absorb all of the potential risks" in hosting, Branamir Kwartuc, a spokesman for Councilman Joe Buscaino, told City News Service last week.

Among the problems with the potential host contract was that Los Angeles would be the official host city but the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city — the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising.

"We can't do police support in Inglewood or Pasadena," Kwartuc said.

FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, with the city of L.A. to sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, Kwartuc said.

"Not only could the city be liable for partial performance, or nonperformance, the city could also incur liability for damages resulting from the performance of other governmental entities or private parties," the city staff report said.

As a result of the contract problems, Council President Herb Wesson never scheduled a vote for the host city agreement, according to Kwartuc, but Mayor Eric Garcetti intervened and asked the United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid, to extend a deadline so the contract issues could be worked out.

A spokeswoman for Wesson did not respond to a request to comment, but Wesson was one of the eight council members who signed the new resolution, which is scheduled to be voted on by the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee, immediately followed by a vote by the full City Council.

In the last two weeks since the extension was granted, the LLC has been formed, and the cities of Inglewood and Pasadena have also provided letters of support to serve as potential venue hosts, Kwartuc said. The resolution under consideration by the City Council says the city will work "in good faith" with the host committee to negotiate a contract specifying the types and level of city services to be provided by the city for 2026 World Cup events.

If the North American bid is successful, the United States would stage 60 matches, and Mexico and Canada 10 apiece, and at least 12 cities will be selected as venues for games. The LATCB said in a report that any one host city could generate \$400 million to \$600 million in total economic impact as a result of serving as a World Cup host.

NBC Los Angeles

LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution Tuesday that keeps the city pursuing host duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council. But those issues appeared to be resolved when local sports companies, including the Anschutz Entertainment Group, the Los Angeles Football Club and the Los Angeles Rams, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract. Among the concerns that had arisen before the LLC was created was that while Los Angeles would be the official host city, the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city -- the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising. The formation of the LLC allows the city "to ease some of the risks that we'll take on if a game or match is not held in the city of L.A.," Councilman Joe Buscaino said before the vote.

Approval of the resolution, and a second agreement between Los Angeles World Airports and the United States Soccer Federation over airport obligations for any FIFA events, was far from routine, with several council members voicing concerns during a debate that went on for nearly two hours.

The two biggest concerns expressed were that the LLC only officially formed Tuesday and the council had not seen the actual LLC documents, and that the LAWA agreement gives FIFA the power to make unilateral changes. The resolution was approved on a 14-1 vote, while the LAWA agreement was passed with an 11-4 vote. Councilman Mitch O'Farrell cast the lone vote against the resolution. The council also voted 11-4 against an amendment to the LAWA agreement introduced by O'Farrell that would have asked the Board of Airport Commissioners to renegotiate with U.S. Soccer and remove the clause that gave FIFA, as a third party in the contract, unilateral power to change it down the road. Council members Mike Bonin, David Ryu and Bob Blumenfield voted with O'Farrell on the LAWA votes. The United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid for the World Cup, had already granted two extensions to Los Angeles to work out its issues with the host agreements, and the second deadline expires Wednesday, which put the council under the gun to approve the documents.

"There's just not enough information and security in knowing that we're prepared to make the best decision at this moment with tomorrow's looming deadline for these votes we're about to take, so I just wanted to raise that concern," O'Farrell said. "I wish we had a better process legislatively quite frankly. I'm just not comfortable with this."

The council ultimately sided with the arguments of Councilman Paul Krekorian, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who laid out a detailed analysis of why he believed the risks in the agreements were minimal compared to the potential rewards. He cited statistics from the Los Angeles Trade and Convention Bureau, which estimated the event could have a \$400 million to \$600 million total economic impact in the area if Los Angeles serves as a World Cup host. Krekorian also pointed out that the LLC would relieve the city from any serious liability related to the bid.

"As we've talked it through I've gone from thinking, 'Oh we really don't have enough before us, I'm really a little apprehensive' -- and you guys know I'm not one that's really afraid to ask questions about things, you know I'm usually the fly in the ointment on these things, but as we talked it through I'm just not seeing that it's that big of a risk," he said. FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, while the city would sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, officials said.

"Not only could the city be liable for partial performance, or nonperformance, the city could also incur liability for damages resulting from the performance of other governmental entities or private parties," according to the city staff report. As a result of the contract problems that arose earlier this month, Council President Herb Wesson never scheduled a vote for the host city agreement, but Mayor Eric Garcetti intervened and asked the United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid, to extend a deadline so the contract issues could be worked out.

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Fox Business

Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law

By Steve Peoples

Republicans spent much of the last decade firing up their base with a vow to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. But when it came to doing the deed, they found promises much easier than execution.

Democrats may be starting down the same path on taxes.

From New Mexico to New York, high-profile liberals are calling for the repeal of the Republican tax plan that President Donald Trump signed into law just two months ago. They're betting big that the message will resonate with voters in the midterm elections in November and provide the sort of clear, populist economic message some Democrats worry has been missing. But others, including red-state Democrats, are clearly queasy about the strategy, mindful that repealing a government benefit once it takes hold is far easier said than done — and not always popular.

When pressed, some leading Democrats conceded that they'd repeal only certain portions of the tax law despite the implication that they'd go further.

Read about Spectre and Meltdown—two new major security flaws affecting billions of computers, laptops, cell phones, servers, and cloud operating systems made in the last two decades.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a 2016 presidential candidate who appeared last weekend in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan as part of the "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, said "No" three times in an AP interview when asked whether he backed full repeal.

"I think what we have got to do is sit down and take a look at what kind of tax benefits would work best for small business, for working families and the middle class," Sanders said. "But what we must repeal completely is tax breaks that go to billionaires and to profitable large corporations that are in some cases are paying very little in taxes right now."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who may seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 and was also featured on the repeal tour, offered a more aggressive position.

"Repeal this tax bill," Garcetti said. "It was passed by, and for, the Washington crowd and their rich friends. Corporations and billionaires are doing just fine."

The messaging challenge comes as the Republican tax overhaul emerges as a central issue in this year's midterm elections. More than health care, guns, or immigration, Republicans and Democrats both have embraced the tax debate. Each side believes it has the winning argument in a battle that will decide the balance of power in Washington for the last two years of Trump's first term.

The conservative Koch brothers' political network has already begun spending millions of dollars on TV ads and grassroots events to help improve the plan's popularity.

While Trump and many conservative leaders cheered the tax overhaul, it was among the least popular pieces of legislation in modern history when it became law in December. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for the tax plan, which overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy, but included modest savings for many middle-class and lower-income Americans.

"I would urge Democrats to embrace repeal. It is a simple clean message. It also captures essentially what most Democrats feel about this bill: It's bad," said Nicole Gill, whose liberal group, Tax March, coordinated the ongoing "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, which in addition to Sanders and Garcetti has already featured appearances from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic National Committee Deputy Chairman Keith Ellison and at least 16 other members of Congress in recent weeks. The tour runs through mid-April.

Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who leads Senate Democrats' 2018 campaign efforts, encouraged all of his party's candidates, even the most vulnerable, to embrace their opposition to the tax law.

"Our members will be talking to these issues," Van Hollen said. "It doesn't matter if you're a red state or a blue state, the idea of running up the debt by \$1.5 trillion and cutting Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for big corporations and the wealthy is not popular."

So far, at least, red-state Democrats are quick to say they would not repeal the law if given the chance, in what is a far more cautious approach than some party strategists and blue-state officials would like.

"I think there's a lot of good things in the tax bill. I just think they went a little too far on some things," said West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who is running for re-election this fall in a state Trump won by 42 points.

Manchin, for example, said he wanted the corporate tax rate placed at 25 percent and he would not have voted to repeal the health coverage mandate.

"No, I wouldn't vote to repeal it. I'm not that type of a person," he said in an interview, adding that he had a similar philosophy on Obama's health care overhaul: Fix it, rather than repeal.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, a state Trump won by 20 points, said he understands that some constituents will benefit from the tax law. He said headlines about bonuses are "all positive" as far as he's concerned.

"There's portions of the tax bill that actually made sense," he said in an interview. "But the thing is, who pays for it? And it's our kids."

During the bill signing in December, Trump highlighted the corporate tax cut in particular, which was dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent. Companies such as Apple, Walmart, Cisco and Pepsi will save hundreds of millions of dollars and sent some of the savings to workers in the form of bonuses and pay increases, but much more went to corporate executives and other shareholders. The bill also lowered the tax rates for each income level and doubled the standard deduction.

Most Americans, but not all, will save money on their tax bills in the coming years, with wealthier taxpayers saving the most. The individual tax cuts will expire in 2025, while the business cuts are permanent.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat elected three months ago, suggested that it didn't matter much whether Democrats promised outright repeal or major improvements as they campaign against the Republican tax law this fall.

"Whether you take an approach of repealing or taking a piece of legislation that you can improve upon — it's the same thing (with) the Affordable Care Act — nothing's perfect," Northam said.

LA Observed

Some data for Garcetti before selecting next LAPD chief

By Fernando Guerra

Los Angeles' political history is more intricately entwined with that of its police department than any other American city, which will make Mayor Eric Garcetti's decision on who replaces retiring LAPD Chief Charlie Beck's one of his most consequential.

As social scientists committed to non-partisan analysis of life as it's currently lived in our city, we at Loyola Marymount's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles hope the mayor and his appointed police commissioners will work toward a decision informed not only by the usual City Hall interests, but also by the wealth of empirical data available concerning residents' views on LAPD and its policies.

There is no need to rehash here the long and, generally, unhappy interplay of LA's enmeshed histories of politics and

policing. They long were marked on the one hand by civic corruption and cowardice and on the other by the department's political manipulations, indifference to constitutional rights and an abusive relationship with minority Angelenos, particularly African Americans, that sparked two of the most deadly and destructive urban riots in U.S. history. Suffice to say that, over recent decades, the two forces that have altered Los Angeles most fundamentally for the better have been demographic change toward vibrant diversity and real police reform.

Since the city's acceptance of a 2002 federal consent decree requiring a radical departmental overhaul, the LAPD has been led by William Bratton and Beck, a pair of genuine "reform chiefs" committed to constitutional policing. Both also are believers in community policing based on the late James Q. Wilson's "broken windows" theory, which advocates using officers proactively to curtail street-level disorder and incivility as presumed precursors of more serious offenses. As a result nearly all serious crimes have fallen to rates unseen since the Great Depression, and LAPD's relations with the communities it serves are better than they've been in historic memory.

Selecting a new chief who will build on that progress will challenge Garcetti and his appointed police commissioners to take the measure not only of the candidates, but also of the collective civic sentiments about the quality and effectiveness of today's LAPD. Based on public opinion research conducted by the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, there's a great deal to be said about the latter, some of which many may find surprising.

Slightly more than seven out of every 10 Angelenos feel LAPD currently is doing an "excellent" or "good" job. An overwhelming 85% of the city's residents rate their police services as fair or better, and 42% describe them as "good." Similarly, 82% approve of the department's "conduct and professionalism."

Despite those historically low crime rates, however, half of residents characterize the city's "crime and safety" situation as only "fair," while only 17% describe it as "good." African Americans and Latinos are most likely to perceive crime and safety as "poor"—by 41% and 47% margins, respectively—while Asians and whites are most inclined to see the situation as "good"—24% and 23%, respectively. Women are most likely to see the crime and safety situation as "poor"—43%—though fully 47% rate it as "fair." By a 14% margin, men are most inclined to view the situation as "good."

Paradoxically, 78% of residents say they would recommend their neighborhood as safe to "someone interested in moving in." Fully seven out of 10 say they would recommend the city as a whole as "safe" to somebody contemplating moving here.

When it comes to public perceptions of the two reform chiefs, Bratton's performance was approved by 74% of residents, while Beck's performance was perceived favorably by 59%. Asians were the most likely residents to approve of Bratton's performance—96%—while blacks were most inclined to disapprove at 41% who either "somewhat" or "strongly" took a negative view of his performance. Bratton's approval rating was equally high among women and men with more than seven out of 10 residents of both genders approving the way he conducted himself. Beck's performance as chief is strongly approved by both whites—65%—and Latinos—58%. However, more than six out of 10 African American residents either "somewhat" or "strongly" disapprove of the way he's done his job.

Negative perceptions in the black community may mirror recent criticism of Beck's handling of police shootings by Black Lives Matter, a group that another of our surveys found is supported by fully 68% of the city's residents. Similarly, some of Bratton's higher rating may be attributable to his skills as a communicator, which are the best of any big city chief in recent memory; Beck, by contrast, is a more understated "cop's cop," who "bleeds blue" and has deep familial roots in the department.

Garcetti will be approaching his decision on Beck's replacement from a relatively strong political position of his own, since 56% of L.A.'s residents assign his performance on crime and public safety an A or B grade, and his rating in this area has climbed by 12 percentage points over the past two years.

The mayor and his commissioners will have to weigh the obvious questions: Would an outsider or LAPD veteran be best positioned to build on the reformers' progress? While our surveys do not find any strong sentiment for a chief of any particular ethnicity, they do suggest that someone with strong communication skills and a willingness to build greater trust among African Americans would be a good candidate. From an historic standpoint, there never has been a Latino chief nor a woman, and first's tend to build good will and political capital.

KTLA

Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

In 2015, 74 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.

Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department.

In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.

LA Times

Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly

By Laura Nelson

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

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In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.

The 6% decline in 2017 falls well short of that goal, and the city's slow progress suggests reducing fatalities by half in the next three years will be difficult.

"Every life is important and we must keep pushing to do better," Garcetti said Tuesday in a statement to The Times, saying he was proud the city had reduced deaths overall in 2017. "Safety is our top priority, and we will continue to set bold goals."

The 2017 statistics were included in a report scheduled to be discussed Wednesday at a City Council transportation committee hearing.

The L.A. data are on par with national trends, which show that more pedestrians are dying, and drivers are more distracted, Transportation Department spokesman Oliver Hou said in an email.

Figures on traffic deaths across the country are not yet available for 2017, but in the previous year, pedestrian deaths rose 9% nationally and 42% in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles officials spent more than a year studying collision data to pinpoint the city's most dangerous streets for pedestrians and cyclists, and worked in 2017 to make changes along 40 of those corridors. Many are broad thoroughfares, including North Broadway in Chinatown, 3rd Street in Koreatown and Sepulveda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley.

Officials have focused on those areas because pedestrians and cyclists represent an outsize number of the city's traffic fatalities. From 2012 to 2016, people on foot were involved in 8% of the traffic collisions in L.A. but represented 44% of the deaths, the Transportation Department said.

Last year, the city made 1,120 changes to streets and intersections, Hou said. Hundreds of crosswalks were modified, including four that now allow pedestrians to cross all directions at once, and 144 digital signs were installed that tell drivers their speeds.

Speed is often the determining factor in whether someone survives a car crash. When struck by a car moving at 20 mph, a pedestrian has a 90% chance of survival, but when hit by a vehicle going 40 mph, the chance of survival falls to 20%, according to a federal study of crash data.

The city also changed the timing on 67 traffic lights to give pedestrians the walk signal several seconds before drivers receive a green light. That change — known as a "leading pedestrian interval" — is designed to cut down on drivers hitting pedestrians in crosswalks.

The increase in pedestrian deaths isn't surprising for anyone who walks in Los Angeles and has had a near miss with a speeding driver, said Emilia Crotty, executive director of Los Angeles Walks, a pedestrian advocacy organization.

Projects that have been shown to reduce pedestrian injuries, including so-called "scramble crosswalks" that allow people to cross in all directions, should not be delayed by concerns about commute times from local officials, Crotty said.

The most high-profile street safety project in 2017, along a handful of streets on L.A.'s Westside, sparked a wave of protests from residents and commuters, two lawsuits and an effort to recall Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents the area. Eventually, the city reversed most of the improvements.

The advocates who fought the Playa del Rey project said they were interested in helping other local groups fight street changes that would affect commute times in other parts of the city. Street safety advocates worried that the backlash could set the Vision Zero effort back by several years.

The city "learned some very hard lessons" last year, Crotty said. "We need our City Council members to champion this issue like the life-and-death situation that it is. Whatever negative pushback there is — perhaps from some drivers — this is what we need to protect the most vulnerable people in our neighborhoods."

Washington Times

Normalizing The Chaos In California

By Tammy Bruce

Liberal policy failure is all around us and destroys lives every day. In California, the destruction of society and individual lives has become so overwhelming, the state's liberal overseers now spend their time covering up where they can and normalizing the chaos as much as possible.

Since 2013, when now-liberal icon Eric Garcetti was elected mayor of Los Angeles, and the nation had just re-elected Barack Obama as president, Los Angeles' homeless population skyrocketed 46 percent. During the Obama years, where unchallenged liberalism was pushed and accepted (wrongly) as the new normal, we saw the leftist economic menace rage through the entire nation, destroying businesses and the full-time jobs that went with them.

In California, the destruction is particularly acute. As the social structure in major cities continues to break down, the state focuses on banning plastic straws, whether to release from prison a mass murderer from the Manson family, while cheering at becoming as sanctuary state.

Just this week, the Los Angeles Times issued an editorial titled, "Los Angeles homeless crisis is a national disgrace."

Actually, it's not — it's a California disgrace. The editorial exemplifies the refusal of liberals to not just admit their responsibility to social destruction, but an inability to even relate to reality.

The Times editorial board chided, in part, "Today, a greater and greater proportion of people living on the streets are there because of bad luck or a series of mistakes, or because the economy forgot them — they lost a job or were evicted or fled an abusive marriage just as the housing market was growing increasingly unforgiving."

They refer to the "economy" as though it's a mean thing with a life of its own, and simply "forgot" people. There's no need

to consider the actual people in charge of policy and the economy. That lost job, or domestic strife, a mean housing market are all pointed at, as though they were all dropped on earth by Martians.

LA Times

Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President

To the editor: Thanks to the Los Angeles Times for addressing the city's homelessness problem and calling it what it really is: a national disgrace. ("Los Angeles' homelessness crisis is a national disgrace," editorial, Feb. 25)

Not a single person in the city, the county or the entire Los Angeles region would disagree with your assessment.

And while we all sit back and watch the crises continue to grow, Mayor Eric Garcetti, apparently campaigning for higher office, is out making speeches in South Carolina, spending less time than he should trying to end the catastrophe in his own backyard.

Just shameful.

Mario Rochin, Studio City

To the editor: Though the brilliantly written clarion call that was this Sunday's full-page editorial about the staggering homelessness crisis in this city and county was years late in coming, it was heartening to see it there blazing with urgency.

This is not the job of just politicians and social workers to face and overcome; it is the responsibility of every single citizen to get involved in whatever meaningful way we can. Any society that allows so many of our fellow humans to suffer so badly is morally bankrupt and cruel.

Let's each of us become part of the solution.

Walter Dominguez, Los Angeles

To the editor: I am guilty of looking the other way, of rolling up my windows from downtown Los Angeles to Beverly Hills and West L.A. I have become irritated, disgusted and angry.

Sunday's editorial should make those of us that have looked the other way feel a sense of guilt.

We have elected people to office to take care of these issues, and they have failed us. We have failed for not doing our part.

We need leadership to give us all direction of what each of us can do.

Thank you, Times Editorial Board.

Daniel S. Mitrovich, Culver City

To the editor: I wonder how many of your print readers glanced, horrified at the headline and the grim pictures of your editorial, and simply closed the Main News section and picked up the Calendar or Arts and Books section while putting such grim realism immediately to one side.

I was one of those readers, but I finally forced myself to go back and read your excellent and heart-wrenching editorial.

Good God, what does it take to give a helping hand, rather than a buck here and there, or to force our "thoughts and prayers" politicians to do something, anything, worthwhile?

Charles Ruebsamen, Rancho Cucamonga

Daily Breeze

Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices

By Elizabeth Chou

Veteran city official Rich Llewellyn will serve in Los Angeles' top post, advising the council and the mayor on their options for tackling major challenges that lay ahead, including the city's growing homeless crisis and infrastructure needs.

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday voted 15-0 to confirm the mayor's appointment of Llewellyn as the City Administrative Officer. One of the key roles of the position is to work with the council and the mayor on developing a city budget each year.

The CAO also represents city leaders in labor negotiations with municipal employee unions, including those that represent police officers, firefighters and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power workers.

Llewellyn told the council that his role is to help city leaders "make hard choices," whether it has to do with public safety, homelessness or other matters.

He said he will strive to serve as an "independent" voice, and "sometimes we just have to say no," which means "you need to make even harder choices."

"And we're there to help you," he said.

The CAO's office also coordinates the city's homeless initiatives and strategies, including the construction of permanent supportive housing and mobile restroom programs.

"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real. We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."

— Rich Llewellyn, newly confirmed L.A. City Administrative Officer

Llewellyn, who has filled the CAO post on an interim basis for the past year, told council members earlier this week that several challenges lay ahead for the city, including the ability to "still deliver service, when we have all these pressing needs and not enough money to do it."

Llewellyn said department general managers are tasked with coming up with ways their staff can "to do their jobs cheaper, faster and more efficiently every day."

He said his staff are eyeing an anticipated downturn in the economy, which may affect the city's revenues and its ability to address the city's biggest challenges, such as homelessness and its "tremendous infrastructure needs."

"We're all worried about when the economy is going to slow, and whether it's going to be a dive or a lull," he said. "Most

economists seem to believe it's going to be a slowdown, not a dive, but we certainly don't want to go back there." He said other pressures on the city include the "rising gap between the rich and poor, which is ultimately driving us down in Los Angeles, and we just have to figure out a way around it."

"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real," he added. "We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."

One area the city has made some headway on is reducing liability costs, according to Llewellyn.

Llewellyn started working for the city 17 years ago in 2001, first as chief of staff for then-councilman Eric Garcetti. He then went on to manage City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's office. He also led Councilman Paul Koretz's staff, before being tapped again by Garcetti to lead the staffing of his mayoral office and his legal team. Prior to going to the city, he spent about 12 years with the county working for District Attorney Gil Garcetti — Eric Garcetti's father — and County Supervisor Edmund Edelman.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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1 message

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LA Times

Koreatown needs a homeless shelter. It also needs city officials to learn from the mistakes of the past

By: Joon Bang

"Dowajuseyo." In Korean, it means "help me."

A few months ago, I received a call from an L.A. County mental health facility. They had just taken a frail Korean grandmother into their care, and officials couldn't figure out what to do with her. In her 70s, with a full head of gray hair, the woman probably weighed no more than 85 pounds and had been living on the streets after being evicted from her Koreatown home. She was afraid to be alone in a facility with people who were unable to communicate with her and wanted to be released.

As executive director of the Korean American Coalition, I often find myself in this somewhat fraught position — a bridge between the limited-English-speaking Korean immigrant community and the service providers who have the resources to help them. I spoke with the grandmother's family, who told me that their financial hardship made their grandmother's mental illness difficult to manage on their own. I tried again and again to broker some kind of arrangement. Ultimately, we were unable to find a solution. The grandmother was released to the streets. She's currently among a growing number of Korean American seniors who are experiencing homelessness.

Koreatown is changing.

The area has long been a symbol for the Korean American and immigrant story. It is a place of identity and pride for a community that believes in hard work and sacrifice. But in just the past two years, the city of Los Angeles has approved over 50 new Koreatown development projects — the majority of them hotels and luxury rentals — in what is the densest and arguably the most socioeconomically diverse community in all of California. Though you don't hear much about it, homelessness is increasing at a rapid rate. I've heard stories of a hidden Korean American homeless community that uses 24-hour spas to stay off the streets and sleeps in the pews of local churches.

In 2017, in an effort to figure out just how widespread this problem is, our organization filmed a documentary called "Invisible Neighbors" on the topic. The results were disturbing enough that, this year, we partnered with homelessness experts from the United Way, EPATH, Homeless Health Care, Rand and USC, as well as representatives from L.A. City Council District 10. Our goal was to develop a process to count the invisible ethnic Korean homeless population, identify the causes of its spread and brainstorm possible solutions to the growing issue.

After three months of preparation, this effort was scheduled to launch in May. But everything came to a halt when L.A. announced plans to build a new homeless shelter in Koreatown. It caught everyone off guard, especially longtime residents and small shop owners who were unaware and uninformed of the plan to put a shelter in the heart of Koreatown's economic corridor, where many business owners are quietly experiencing a financial downturn.

After speaking with various members of the community, I feel confident saying the protests occurred not because we don't want temporary or supportive housing for those struggling with homelessness. These protests were a direct response to being left out of the process — unable to ask questions and work together with the city to find the best location.

There's also a deeper context here. For many Koreatown residents, a deep sense of distrust of local government exists,

one which stems back to the 1992 L.A. riots, when the Koreatown community was abandoned and left to fend for itself. Over 1,700 businesses were destroyed, leaving residents and small businesses to pick up the pieces and rebuild on their own. Koreatown may look like a hip place to eat and play, but for many, it remains a symbol of the difficult Korean American journey.

City officials have since acknowledged their community outreach should have been better. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson are working with community leaders to educate the public on the details of the project and address concerns.

That's important, because the truth is that more and more Korean Americans and Koreatown residents need access to homeless services — and this is an opportunity to get them that help.

At first glance, the appearance of a homeless shelter may seem like a threat to our identity and culture of hard work and resilience. But the reality is that our community is changing — and has been for some time. Be it the high cost of living, lack of affordable housing, a rapidly growing elderly population or threats to immigration status, Korean Americans are indeed amongst the homeless. We have a responsibility to take care of them.

Wherever a shelter ends up being located, we must ensure it delivers on its promises — not only for the community, but, more importantly, for the sake of those who will be sleeping there.

"Dowajuseyo." Help me.

As Angelenos, we need to step up together and answer the call.

LA Times

A closer look at the three finalists for LAPD chief

By: Cindy Chang and James Queally

As young cops, the three finalists for chief of the Los Angeles Police Department were taught a harsh style of policing that emphasized crackdowns and arrests.

They have since disavowed that strategy, rising through the ranks of a department that has recast itself as a kinder, gentler LAPD. All three use similar catchphrases: building ties with residents, investing in youth sports and academic programs, assuring immigrants that the LAPD wants to help them, not deport them.

But for the official making the selection, Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is considering a run for president, each of the veteran cops brings political benefits.

Robert Arcos would be the first Latino police chief of a city that is nearly 50% Latino. Bill Scott, who left the LAPD to lead the troubled San Francisco Police Department, is African American and a familiar face in South Los Angeles.

Michel Moore, whose father was a Basque immigrant, was already in the top echelons of the LAPD when the other two candidates were appointed to their first station commands. LAPD insiders say his breadth of experience and mastery of subjects from crime statistics to budgets are second to none.

Arcos has the backing of some powerful Latino politicians, while a coalition of African American pastors and community activists is supporting Scott.

Garcetti received the names of the three finalists, chosen by the city's civilian Police Commission from a field of 31 applicants, on May 4. He has said that he expects to pick the new chief by the end of the month, if not sooner — well in advance of Chief Charlie Beck's June 27 retirement. The City Council will then vote on Garcetti's choice.

In selecting three men with decades of experience in the LAPD, the commission signaled its desire to stay the course set by Beck and his predecessor, William Bratton, who remade the department under a federal consent decree. Among the challenges the new chief will face: how to improve relationships with some black and Latino residents, who are critical of fatal police shootings and complain about bearing the brunt of the LAPD's enforcement operations.

Garcetti has said he wants to choose the best leader and is not aiming for a demographic first. Several City Council members had indicated that it was time for the leader of one of the largest police departments in the country to be a woman. But former Assistant Chief Sandy Jo MacArthur, who was among five candidates interviewed by the commission, did not make the final three.

"It's a nice, diverse pool, with the exception of no female," said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. "It reflects L.A., and it reflects the new LAPD."

Robert Arcos

Arcos, 57, moved to L.A. from Texas with his mother and four younger siblings when he was 10. The family eventually settled in Atwater Village, then a working-class, mostly minority community where young men faced pressure to join gangs. His mother struggled financially, sometimes relying on food stamps.

Later, as a sergeant at the station that polices his old neighborhood, Arcos ran into childhood friends who had been arrested by his colleagues.

"My story is very similar to many of the kids in underserved communities," Arcos said. "That gives me a connection and empathy to realize where people are when they're at their most vulnerable and low."

Scott Kroeber was the captain of the elite Metropolitan Division in 2005, when Arcos came in as a lieutenant charged with implementing changes recommended by top brass.

Kroeber remembers Arcos as a "people-oriented" manager who cared so much about his police officers that he would agonize over what degree of discipline to give them. As an outsider to Metro's insular culture, Arcos did not force the changes down officers' throats and gradually won them over.

"He's that rare individual who strikes the happy medium — we need to go there, and let's bring people along to do it willingly," said Kroeber, who retired in 2013.

After his Metro assignment, Arcos made captain, serving as second-in-command at Olympic Division and then the officer in charge at 77th. Beck promoted him quickly to commander. He worked at administrative services and Central Bureau before taking charge of Central in 2016 as a deputy chief.

At Central, which includes downtown and Northeast L.A., Arcos often manages large street demonstrations. The area is also the epicenter of L.A.'s worsening homelessness crisis.

As chief, Arcos said, he would enhance the department's de-escalation training so officers make different choices in a situation where "you can shoot, but should you?"

"It's time for another cultural shift," Arcos said. "Our policies have to reflect the community's values."

Arcos is a third-generation Mexican American who understands some Spanish but does not speak it fluently.

At a time when "the Trump administration has declared war on our immigrant communities," Arcos is a "once in a lifetime" leader who has "challenged the status quo and embraced modern, non-traditional policing," City Councilman Gil Cedillo wrote in an endorsement letter to Garcetti, which was also signed by former council members Gloria Molina, Richard Alatorre, Mike Hernandez and Ed Reyes.

In 2006, while Arcos was a lieutenant in Metro, his daughter Chelsea killed two people in a drunk driving accident on the 5 Freeway. The LAPD launched an Internal Affairs investigation into an allegation that Arcos asked the probation department to alter a report in his daughter's favor. The investigation eventually cleared Arcos, and he denies wrongdoing.

David Pokorny, the lead California Highway Patrol investigator in the case, said he has no proof that Arcos put pressure on the probation department. But in an interview with The Times last week, he called the Internal Affairs investigation a "massive coverup." Pokorny, who is now retired, said that investigators never interviewed him, even though he was central to the case.

After Pokorny warned Chelsea Arcos' attorney that the probation report was flawed, the attorney never presented it in court, Pokorny told The Times.

Chelsea Arcos was convicted of two counts of vehicular manslaughter, among other crimes, and sentenced to seven years in prison.

"I never tried to mitigate it, minimize it or excuse it," Robert Arcos said of his daughter's actions. "She got what she deserved."

In 2015, after her release from prison, Chelsea Arcos pleaded no contest to driving under the influence in another incident and was sentenced to an alcohol treatment program and 60 days in jail. Her previous convictions could not legally be used to upgrade the charge from a misdemeanor to a felony, said a spokeswoman from the L.A. County District Attorney's Office.

The other driver, who was not seriously hurt, filed a lawsuit in January that includes Robert Arcos and his wife as defendants and alleges Arcos used his position to get his daughter a light sentence.

Arcos' attorney has moved to dismiss the case, arguing that the parents are not legally liable for their daughter's actions.

"I had nothing to do with it. I had no influence. She's an adult," Arcos said.

Arcos and his wife have spoken at high schools about their daughter's experience. At the LAPD, Arco has warned police officers who have gotten DUIs about the devastating consequences of drinking and driving.

"I never want anybody to experience this, as a parent, a sibling, a close friend, ever," he said.

Michel Moore

Moore, 57, was among the finalists for LAPD chief in 2009. The Police Commission ranked him highest of the three, but Beck got the job. Moore has made no secret about his desire to lead a police department and was recently a finalist for the top jobs in Dallas and San Diego.

As a boy growing up with six siblings, Moore moved constantly while his parents looked for work. He remembers a Christmas night in Flint, Mich., when officials came to repossess the family station wagon. In Arkansas, his stepfather suggested that he stop using his Basque last name, Sanchotena, because of the racial prejudice there. He has been Michel Moore ever since, with "Michel" pronounced like "Michael."

Moore, who is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, said he identifies as the son of an immigrant and views policing through that lens. Otherwise, he said, he is "one of billions."

As a young police officer, Moore pulled the trigger in two fatal shootings. At that point, he said, he was happy to join the department's DARE program and teach kids about the dangers of drugs. Later, as a sergeant, Moore got his first taste of the wonky data crunching he would become known for, creating the department's first automated crime-mapping system.

After stints in internal affairs, Wilshire Division and vice, he was tapped to lead Rampart Division in 1998, the day after Rafael Perez was arrested in a corruption scandal that came to define the department. Officers in Rampart thought Perez was wrongly accused, Moore said. As a newly minted captain, he had to persuade them to abandon the "Rampart way" and start doing things the LAPD way.

Under Bratton, Moore was deputy chief of West Bureau and then Valley Bureau. In 2010, Beck promoted him to assistant chief — a rung below chief. He rotated through special operations, which includes detectives, counterterrorism and SWAT; administrative services, including the behind-the-scenes realms of budget, personnel and training; and his current position, patrol operations.

Moore is by all accounts a demanding boss who expects his subordinates to be as versed in every detail as he is. Whether you view Moore as a driven leader or a micromanager depends on whether you are ready to rise to his level, said Capt. Jay Roberts, who was Moore's adjutant.

"He taught me about juggling 1,600 balls at the same time," Roberts said. "I was kept on my toes for three years — he held me accountable."

At the LAPD's weekly Compstat meetings, Moore asks detailed questions of station captains but does not humiliate them. He emails the topics he will cover — whether robberies, burglaries or auto thefts — to the captains in advance. He said he wants to work with them to find solutions to seemingly impossible problems.

"As a former captain, I have an appreciation for the pressures and challenges they're under," Moore said. "I've seen other people putting on Compstat ... and embarrassing the hell out of the captains."

Moore has been at the forefront of the LAPD's efforts to reduce fatal shootings by encouraging officers to use Tasers and beanbag shotguns. He recently proposed a system to quantify positive community interactions such as public meetings and roll calls held on city streets.

"It's not just enforcement — crime suppression, getting guns off the street," Moore said. "It's engagement — being in church pews, working foot beats."

Moore, who lives in Santa Clarita, said he will move to L.A. if he becomes chief.

"To represent a city of 4 million, I think it speaks to being fully vested in the outcomes of what happens in the city," he said.

The Political Action Committee of the Mexican American Bar Assn. has endorsed Moore as the most qualified candidate for police chief.

"The City of Los Angeles is made up of many diverse communities and Assistant Chief Moore has the knowledge, background, and expertise that is superior to any other candidate in working with all minority groups," Felipe Plascencia, the group's president, wrote in a letter to Garcetti.

A similarly named but unrelated group, the Mexican American Bar Assn., is supporting Arcos.

Bill Scott

Scott was raised in a military family, eventually settling in Birmingham, Ala. Some of his relatives who were active in the civil rights movement were sprayed with fire hoses and attacked by police dogs, he said in a 2015 interview with The Times. He kept that historical perspective in mind during his 27 years at the LAPD, particularly when managing volatile relationships between the police and the community in South L.A.

"You cannot say, 'Forget it,'" Scott said. "An 82-year-old African American man grew up in a place where they had to live through some of the things that were happening 50 years ago. They aren't going to forget that, and neither should we."

When homicides skyrocketed in South L.A. in the beginning of 2016, Scott was among the architects of a command center that deployed Metropolitan Division officers to crime hot spots. On many nights, the officers were charged with stopping drivers who had committed traffic violations and then seeing if there was a legal reason to search for drugs or weapons.

That approach, coupled with cooperation from gang intervention workers to stop retaliatory killings, was necessary to reduce the violence, Scott said in a September 2016 interview with The Times, when he was deputy chief of South Bureau. But he also articulated the long-term cost of locking people up.

"If you are an 8-year-old depending on your father to provide for you, and now you see your father going away in handcuffs, who are you going to be mad at? Your father or the police officer who took him away?" he said.

When Scott left for San Francisco at the end of 2016, Beck praised his "tactical skills, intelligence and kindness."

Scott is trying to turn around a department reeling from a racist text message scandal and the controversial police killing of a black man named Mario Woods.

Shortly before Scott's arrival, the U.S. Department of Justice had released a study showing that San Francisco police disproportionately used force against minorities, also stopping and searching them more frequently than whites. Scott is working to implement reforms recommended by the Department of Justice and has pushed to arm all his officers with Tasers.

The San Francisco Police Department has about 2,000 officers, compared with 10,000 at the LAPD.

John Burris, a Bay Area civil rights attorney who represented Woods' relatives, said Scott has an open mind on officer discipline and has sometimes tussled with the city's combative police union.

"He came to meetings early and did not, like other chiefs in the past, automatically assume the police's position," Burris said.

Roberts, the LAPD captain, described Scott as measured and low-key, with a management style that emphasizes collaboration.

"He holds you accountable but in a very friendly way — smiling, laughing, with humor built in," Roberts said. "His strength is that people don't have their guard up when they enter the room. He's able to bridge gaps."

At a news conference earlier this week, some African American community leaders said they were supporting Scott not because of his race but because he can connect with South L.A. residents and understand their uneasy relationship with the LAPD.

"No one knows South L.A. like Bill Scott does," said Najee Ali, president of Project Islamic HOPE. "We want Chief Scott to come back home to his city and his community, because the city needs him and South L.A. needs him."

Departing from recent precedent, Garcetti did not initially release the list of three finalists, citing respect for their confidentiality, but the names were reported by The Times using sources with knowledge of the process. The secrecy was

seen by some observers as an attempt to protect Scott from a backlash in San Francisco. Scott has deflected questions about whether he applied for the job and has not responded to The Times' requests for an interview.

"I'm a man of my word, first and foremost," Scott told ABC7 San Francisco the day his appointment as chief was announced. "My intent is to be here as long as the city and the citizens and people will have me here, and to get the job done."

But with Beck's retirement and the death of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who appointed him, Scott's ambitions turned back to Los Angeles.

LA Times

L.A. transit officials consider Metro-owned sites in Valley, Venice to aid homeless

By: Laura J. Nelson

Los Angeles County transportation officials have identified five properties, including parking lots in the San Fernando Valley and a former bus yard in Venice Beach, that could be used to provide services or temporary housing for Los Angeles County's growing homeless population.

The properties, owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, are either vacant or underused, officials said. It is unclear what services would be provided at the sites or how Metro would address public health, safety and liability concerns.

The list of proposed properties was assembled for Metro's directors, who have pushed to expand the agency's role in addressing the county's homelessness crisis. Riders' negative perceptions of safety and cleanliness on the system are leading reasons behind a decline in ridership, officials have said.

"This is an unprecedented crisis in Los Angeles, and we all — all levels of government, all neighborhoods — need to be treating this as if it were a natural disaster," said Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, the chair of Metro's customer experience committee, during a downtown meeting Thursday.

Similar efforts are underway in the city of Los Angeles, where Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is pursuing a \$20-million initiative to build temporary homeless shelters on city-owned parking lots. The first proposed facility, a 65-bed shelter near Wilshire Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, has sparked an outcry from Koreatown residents.

Metro is a major county landowner, with a portfolio that includes dozens of train stations, parking lots and bus yards, as well as parcels adjacent to rail lines that were acquired during construction.

The agency's real estate staff identified 40 possible properties, then eliminated sites slated for construction or development within 18 months. The agency also ruled out heavily used park-and-ride lots as well as sites that are "isolated" and removed from transit and social services, Metro Deputy Executive Officer John Potts said.

Commuters rarely fill the park-and-ride lots at the Orange Line busway stations in Van Nuys, Tarzana and Canoga Park, which would be prime candidates for homeless services, Metro said. The lots are adjacent to the Orange Line bike path, where Valley residents have frequently complained of homeless encampments.

A former bus yard in Venice Beach that closed in 2015 is also on the list. The 3.15-acre lot on Sunset Avenue is three blocks from the Pacific Ocean and a short walk from Abbot Kinney Boulevard, where homes sell for more than \$3 million.

Metro closed the bus facility after fielding multiple offers from buyers who wanted to develop the site, but no deal is expected within a year and a half. The building that formerly housed the bus yard's facilities would require some environmental remediation before people could work inside, Potts said.

The final site runs along San Fernando Road in northeast Los Angeles, sandwiched between the street and Metrolink tracks. A trucking company recently terminated its lease there for cab parking, freeing up 34,000 square feet that could be used for overnight parking for people living in cars and camper vans.

Metro's directors took no steps Thursday to move forward with the homeless services plan, and they raised a number of questions about how Metro would provide and fund the programs. They also questioned how long services that are described as "temporary" could be provided.

The hope, Potts said, is that Metro will hire an outside service provider and draft a contract with a "firewall" that protects the agency from any public safety, security and liability concerns.

All five sites are in the city of Los Angeles, and elected officials and their constituents should be notified, said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. She also raised questions about how a safe overnight parking program would work.

Directors did not mention mobile showers or bathrooms, a service that Garcetti previously described as "very appropriate" for land near Metro stations. The vast majority of the rail and bus system has no bathroom access, because officials have traditionally said the facilities could be magnets for drug use and prostitution.

The city of L.A. operates a hygiene trailer with showers and laundry machines in a city-owned parking lot on skid row. Security officers and a maintenance crew monitor the facility, and people who come in can speak with a homeless outreach worker.

Metro directors also supported a proposal to expand Metro's homeless outreach program, which began a year ago.

Currently, two teams of outreach workers walk through subway stations and ride trains on weekday mornings and afternoons, helping people find housing and other services. The expanded program would provide six more outreach teams, including workers who would ride the system on Saturdays, Sundays and overnight.

One team of outreach workers would be assigned exclusively to L.A.'s all-night buses, which carry so many sleeping homeless people that riders sometimes call them "rolling motels."

The expansion, which still needs a full Metro board vote, would increase the annual cost of the program from \$1.2 million to \$4.2 million.

USA Today

In the second Gilded Age, the mansions get bigger, and the homeless get closer

By: Rick Hampson

LOS ANGELES — When she became president of the Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association, Robin Greenberg wanted to do something for people who couldn't afford any home, much less one like hers in the golden hills of Bel Air.

So every month for eight years, she and colleagues went to Skid Row or elsewhere downtown to feed the homeless.

Then, last December, she learned the homeless had come to her.

Before dawn on Dec. 6 a wildfire raced out of a parched ravine in Bel Air, scorching 422 acres, destroying or damaging 18 homes and forcing the evacuation of about 700 others — including Robin Greenberg's.

Even more shocking than the fire's damage was its cause: a portable stove at a homeless encampment right there in Bel Air.

The wildfire is an instructive tale of America's second Gilded Age, a time when the kinds of excesses and extremes that once seemed to have been consigned to U.S. history have come roaring back.

In this Gilded Age, like the one at the end of the 19th Century, the gap between rich and poor is widening; monopolies have more power over business, business has more power over politics and politics are close-fought and hyper-partisan. The pace of change — technological, cultural, social — is dizzying.

In his presidential campaign, Donald Trump simultaneously evoked two Gilded Age types, the plutocrat and the populist. "Trump is the perfect figure for the new Gilded Age. He's like something out of Mark Twain" (who coined the term "Gilded Age" in 1873), says David Nasaw, a biographer of Gilded Age industrialist Andrew Carnegie. "Exaggeration is his essence."

The most striking feature shared by the two Gilded Ages is growing economic inequality. In the 19th Century, the juxtaposition of squalor and splendor shocked a rural nation that was moving to the city; today, it haunts a nation that can remember the relative equality of the Depression, World War II and the long post-war period.

Nowhere is this inequality more apparent than Los Angeles, where hundreds of encampments have sprung up on beaches, in riverbeds and in canyons as the homeless population has exploded and expanded beyond its old boundaries.

The homeless camp where the December wildfire started was only a mile from a new hilltop mansion twice the size of the White House that's for sale for \$500 million. It destroyed the \$5.5 million house of former NBA star Andrei Kirilenko, singed some vines at Rupert Murdoch's Moraga winery and forced celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Chelsea Handler to flee.

A sign of the apocalypse? Or just bad karma?

"I'm not a fire-and-brimstone, end-of-the-world kind of guy," says Bert Muto, a formerly homeless man who saw a fire at another homeless camp threaten multimillion-dollar houses. "But the Biblical stuff is a reminder of what it feels like today.

Where's it gonna stop?"

Build no small mansions

CHAPTER 1

The Gilded Age began about a decade after the end of the Civil War and ended around 1901, when President William McKinley was assassinated and reformer Teddy Roosevelt took office.

It was an era of robber barons such as Rockefeller, Carnegie and Vanderbilt; of state legislatures (which at the time elected U.S. senators) controlled by railroads and other special interests; of giant industrial monopolies known as "trusts;" of financial crises, including the panics of 1873, 1893 and 1907; and of a populist reaction against all of the above.

Tycoons built 70-room marble oceanfront "cottages" that they occupied for only four to eight weeks a year. A New York couple spent \$400,000 — more than \$9 million today — to throw a costume ball at the Waldorf Hotel. Sociologist Thorstein Veblen termed the phenomenon "conspicuous consumption."

The city that epitomized the first Gilded Age was New York, site of the greatest houses, most glittering social events and the mightiest banks. It was home to the social elite — the so-called Four Hundred (the number that could fit into Mrs. Astor's ballroom). Its slums, with names like Bandit's Roost and Misery Row, were the subject of Jacob Riis' book *How the Other Half Lives*.

But the capital of America's second Gilded Age is Los Angeles, where hilltop homes worth tens of millions of dollars look out over a city in which even the middle class struggles to afford shelter and the number of homeless increases daily. The city's famed sprawl cannot isolate Angelinos from disorienting contrasts many Americans assumed had disappeared after reforms of the Progressive Era, the New Deal and the Great Society.

The heart of Gilded Age Los Angeles is Bel Air, a community of curving lanes and hillside mansions where a Hollywood legend lurks behind every hedge and gate.

One may purchase "gigamansions" with names such as *The One*, (\$500 million); *Chartwell*, the setting for *The Beverly Hillbillies* TV show (\$295 million); *Billionaire*, with an ornamental helicopter on the roof (\$188 million, down from \$250 million); and *The Manor*, once home of producer Aaron Spelling (\$200 million).

(These prices are more aspirational than rational; the \$110 million for which Hard Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton's Malibu home sold last month broke the L.A. record of \$100 million set two years ago by the *Playboy Mansion* and another house.)

In Bel Air, a house is really considered a mansion only if it's 30,000 square feet — 12 times as large as the average American single family house.

As a result, many of Bel Air's steep, narrow lanes are construction zones. "There's a saying here," says Jeff Hyland, head of the city's leading high-end real estate agency. "If the house is 10 years old, it's a candidate for a remodel. If it's 20 years old, it's a candidate for a tear down."

Ready to party

CHAPTER 2

Once, the rich built their own dream houses. In the second Gilded Age, however, developers such as Nile Niami, a former B-movie producer, will do it for them.

Niami is the builder of *The One*, the *USS Enterprise* of the new class of spec houses. It sits on a 4-acre hilltop lot with 360-degree views, including the downtown skyline and the Pacific.

The One has 20 bedrooms, seven pools (including a moat) and five elevators. It has a nightclub, casino, flower room, spa, gym, beauty salon, 45-seat theater, four-lane bowling alley and a four-oven commercial kitchen. There is a lounge whose walls are glass tanks filled with iridescent jellyfish. There is parking for 30 vehicles.

The master bedroom suite — 5,500 square feet, more than twice the average house — has its own office, kitchen and pool.

If *The One* were to sell for even a third of its asking price after it's finished next year, it still would set a U.S. record by about \$30 million.

No one needs such houses, so buyers must be made to want them by creating what Miami's architect, Paul McClean, calls "an emotional connection." Hence, amenities: swings suspended from the ceiling, or a jellyfish room.

And buyers who want such a place want it now, not in the three to four years it takes to build one. So many are sold in move-in condition — completely furnished, decorated and supplied, down to the champagne.

"All the decisions have been made for you. The lifestyle is there for you," McClean says. "All you have to do is move in." As Miami puts it, "The day they buy it, they're ready to have a party."

The market is global. The world has more than 1,500 billionaires, only a third of whom are Americans. Hyland, an expert on Bel Air's history as well as its real estate, says The Four Hundred of the first Gilded Age is now The Four Thousand.

None of Miami's potential buyers seeks a primary or full-time residence. Most already have five or six homes. So The One, like other giga-mansions, will be a pied-à-terre or a place to entertain and impress.

In a metro area with 58,000 homeless, The One will be empty much of the time.

Its isolated hillside perch and skyline views provide an escape from such vertiginous contradictions. McClean, the architect, talks about how his houses separate their occupants from the "day-to-day life of the city."

They also break down the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Trading on the benign climate, McClean skillfully uses glass walls and doors to create a sense of being outside when you're inside. The ironic result is housing for the rich that seems to disappear even as, for the poor, it actually is disappearing.

Lifestyles of the poor and famous

CHAPTER 3

The homelessness issue has achieved a special distinction in Los Angeles. Having increased 50% during the past five years, "it's supplanted traffic as the topic everyone talks about," says Tom Waldman, spokesman for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The homeless are as visible as the Hollywood sign. More than two years after Mayor **Eric Garcetti** declared a "state of emergency," about 41,000 are "unsheltered" — sleeping in cars, outside City Hall, under freeway overpasses. The Los Angeles Times calls it "a human tragedy of extraordinary proportions."

The homeless are blamed for everything from declining ridership on the Metro mass transit system — nearly three in 10 riders said they stopped riding because they felt unsafe — to last year's hepatitis A outbreak. Of 36 cases, 16 were among homeless people.

The city gets about 1,900 requests a month to clean up or remove homeless encampments, nearly three times more than two years ago.

Increasingly desperate officials have designated lots where people who live in their cars can legally park for the night and made 1,400 bins available to the homeless to store their belongings. There are plans to lodge people in trailers on city property.

The ranks of the homeless have been swelled by military veterans, young people emerging from foster homes, refugees from domestic abuse and inmates released under an initiative that made it easier to parole non-violent offenders. About three in 10 homeless people are mentally ill, and two in 10 are addicts.

Housing is too expensive. In California, eight in 10 homes for sale are not affordable on a public school teacher's salary.

Seeds of change

CHAPTER 4

Almost six months after the Bel Air wildfire, in the neighborhood that was evacuated, there's talk of helping the homeless, and of keeping them out.

Robin Greenberg says the homeless won't resettle in the canyons and instead will stay closer to services. She plans to keep going to Skid Row to help: "I like interacting with them. I like it when people say, 'Thank you.' I've brought my grandchildren."

But another longtime resident, Nickie Miner, says that in an arid landscape subject to high winds, homeless camps are a

threat to public safety. And she says some of the homeless don't want help: "They want be survivalists, and they want to do it in our hills." Residents have been going on a social networking site to report homeless sightings. A man was seen walking in the street near traffic, apparently "off his meds." One resident has raised the possibility of deploying a drone to spy on potential camp sites.

The extremes of the Gilded Age were moderated in the Progressive Era that followed. But the seeds of reform — the income tax, antitrust laws, limits on working hours and child labor — were planted in the Gilded Age.

Such seeds may be there today, if we look for them.

Consider the experience of Bel Air's similarly affluent neighbor to the west, Pacific Palisades.

In November 2015, a man in a homeless encampment, using a lit paper bag as a flashlight, started a fire that endangered several homes. Police ejected all the homeless, including Victor Jimenez, who'd lost his home after losing his job as a videographer at a law firm.

But a Pacific Palisades residents' committee privately raised \$125,000 to hire two social workers to connect the homeless — defined by the committee as Palisades "residents" if they'd been in town for six months — with housing and services.

One worker helped Jimenez, 49, get a job and an apartment downtown. He's grateful but under no illusions about what prompted it: "After the fire, the money was there."

Which may be what it takes.

Homelessness has been a sort of conflagration for greater Los Angeles, which also happens to be where the national taxpayer revolt began four decades ago, with Howard Jarvis and Proposition 13.

And yet in 2016 voters approved a \$1.2 billion city bond to build supported housing for the homeless. And last year they passed a county sales tax to fund homeless services.

On the scorched hillsides of Bel Air, the flowers known as "fire followers" are beginning to bloom.

The Hill

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right

By: Mary Plotkin

One issue which never seems to rise to any degree of national visibility is residential housing.

Yes, during local campaigns, you hear much talk about the "homeless crisis" and the need for "affordable housing." But these topics are almost never mentioned or brought up in a presidential campaign or even a U.S. Senate contest.

These supposed "local" matters, for some inexplicable reason, are deemed not "serious" enough for a national discussion.

This makes no sense. A roof over your head should be considered a national necessity. After having enough food to survive, what else could be so important?

On Sunday, The New York Times wrote a story on housing with the subtitle, "The nation's housing policy for the poor may feel like a lottery. Sometimes it is." The story, written by Emily Badger and Jim Wilson, chronicles the hopes of various individuals and families whose only desire is to have a decent and affordable place to live. It forcefully makes the point that the homeowners have a great deal while renters get the shaft. As the piece so starkly says, "the mortgage interest deduction is available to anyone who asks for it. ... For poor renters, there is never enough housing assistance to go around."

The federal government, when it comes to low-income renters, plays a very small role. Yes, there is public housing and vouchers, but that in no way approaches solving the problem or improving the situation.

Kate Hartley, director of San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, is quoted in the Times article. She sums it up with these clear words: "This country does have a national housing policy, and that is that we provide our greatest subsidies to relatively affluent, housed people."

It is pointed out in the article that "homeowners get the mortgage interest deduction, which has cost the government more than these programs for the poor combined."

So, housing policy by default becomes poor renters winning in a housing lottery.

Kirk McClure, a professor of urban planning at the University of Kansas, states that “these last-hope lotteries are a manifestation of the tragic reality ... (that) we have never in America made affordable housing a right.”

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right. (Just as health insurance for everyone should be.) I know, that smacks of socialism. Call it what you want. But I make no apologies for wanting to live in a country where having a roof over your head and health insurance is a right, and funding it is a priority.

Some things can rightly be labeled as necessities. Why is it too much to ask the U.S. Congress and this president to face up to the fact that far too many individuals and families are consumed with worry and anxiety about how they are to pay next month's rent.

Rent subsidies and vouchers must be vastly expanded and increased.

To fund this program, institute the Tobin tax, in which every stock transaction is taxed, and put those billions of dollars into a true housing program for the non-well-off, so they can have housing.

We as a nation have become inured to “the homeless.” It is a tragic, terrible plight that those who are working have to constantly worry that they won't have a place to call home.

This crisis can be solved. But, first, there must be recognition that the crisis exists.

Why is no U.S. senator given the title the “Affordable Housing Senator?” Why, during U.S. Senate debates, is not one question asked about housing? Why, during the presidential primary season, is the subject never ever mentioned, let alone debated?

Len Simon, head of Simon & Co., a Washington, D.C., company that provides expert advice to city government, does offer a ray of hope. He perceptively points out that two former mayors — John Hickenlooper of Denver, now governor of Colorado, and Mitchell Landrieu of New Orleans — and present mayors **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles and Bill de Blasio of New York City, are on the 2020 list of possible Democratic presidential candidates. One or all of them will surely bring up and, more importantly, advocate for the issue.

One could, perhaps, add a prominent senator and former mayor, Cory Booker of Newark.

It's time that this essential necessity be brought up and discussed, and plans made to rectify it. The unmentionable subject is too important to be relegated to academic journals and local campaigns. It needs to be an integral part of the political life of this nation.

Far too many people are hurting because elected officeholders refuse to pay attention and come up with remedies. The issue of housing cannot be ignored.

This indifference is dangerous to so many.

City Watch

Koreatown Roars in Protest, Demands Public Hearings

By: Grace Yoo

K'TOWN ON ALERT-Koreatown came out ROARING in PROTEST against City Council President Herb Wesson and Mayor **Garcetti's** glib attitude in coming out to Koreatown and announcing that the Temporary Homeless Shelter will be located at 682 S. Vermont -- the northern portion of CD 10 that is represented by Wesson.

As background, this came after Mayor Garcetti shared in his 2018 State of the City address that “every single member” on the 15-member City Council pledged to create a “minimum of 222 new units in neighborhoods across LA.” The Mayor even acknowledged in his speech that Council President Herb Wesson would lead the way by stepping up to announce the site.

After the Mayor and Council President's press conference to share the good news about “A Bridge Home,” another fantastic concept and name given for the Temporary Homeless Shelters that will be built around the City in each and every council district (per the Mayor), the K'town response most likely shocked and alarmed both men.

Literally, a GRASSROOTS movement occurred overnight -- well maybe over a few days -- with multiple social media sites and websites, change.org, and mom's groups concerned about the idea of a temporary homeless shelter. There was either a lack of information or false information given to the Ktown community residents and stakeholders.

Some folks were told that this shelter would be affordable housing units; others were told it was going to be a tent-like structure; some thought a building was going to go up. The City did a horrible job of informing the Ktown community of what was going on. And this is just the beginning because as other council members across the City identify the

temporary homeless shelter locations, other neighborhoods and communities are being blind-sided. And let's not forget that the City is asking the community to wait to find out about what types of services will be provided for the homeless; it's only letting it be known that these would be welcoming spaces -- open 24 hours, with no restrictions, including no sobriety requirement to stay at the shelters.

"A Bridge Home" sounds like a good start. We live in LA and we know that there is a homelessness crisis. We see it, we hear it, we feel it and know by other senses, too. What is the City afraid of? Why not allow public hearings? I don't mean another repeat of the 2012 Redistricting Hearings, which put on a great show, with dozens of hearings held throughout the City, requesting input from residents. Yet, when it came down to voting, the input from the community was not considered. How do I know this? Because of the 21 Redistricting Commissioners, not a single one -- yes, not ONE COMMISSIONER -- was given all the data that had been collected over dozens of hearings. In fact, they purposely split the 21 Commissioners into three separate groups, so that it was impossible for each commissioner to see or hear input from the various communities throughout the City.

We live in America, not Russia, so how is it that community members are not informed? If you watch the video linked here, you hear Wesson telling the media on camera, "No, no, no, that is there is NOT going to be a public hearing where it relates to this, we are going to put a temporary facility here..." This is the treatment we get in Ktown. I have seen Wesson when he wants to impress and be polite. He's more than cordial. But we in Ktown often get treated like second class citizens. As you can see from the grassroots uproar, this disparate treatment will not be tolerated.

Let's not forget what happens when we rush into things that were supposedly great ideas supported by Wesson and Garcetti...like the half-aked concept of RecycLA which has caused complaints in the tens of thousands, costing some folks an increase of 400% for trash hauling fees. Even Wesson admits that RecycLA was not well-implemented.

In a recent issue of LA Magazine, Wesson's response says it all: "On this one, we did not project accurately what was going to occur. We could have done a deeper dive; we might have looked at doing a pilot project first. We spent a couple of years reviewing it. Sometimes we get things wrong. I'm not ashamed to say that I was wrong on this one."

Need I say more? "A Bridge Home" should be given a DEEP DIVE. Homeless individuals and families need well-thought out solutions, not just photo-ops from folks wanting higher office.

We have a huge homeless crisis that keeps growing. The reason is the City has not prioritized the building of affordable units. It keeps building luxury units, with studios starting at \$2,500. If \$15 an hour-employees work full time, their annual salaries would be approximately \$31,000. And after taxes, it's far less. If you can find a one-bedroom apartment for \$1,800 you would be lucky. But that would still cost \$21,600 a year. LA needs affordable housing, so let's be smart and build affordable units that rent for less than \$1,000 a studio. This would alleviate the growing homeless situation in LA.

Councilmember Wesson had his folks handing out his ideal version of what the Homeless Shelter will look like in Ktown, saying it was "a fact" that there were 400 or so homeless people in Koreatown. Well, until I see the raw data for his conclusions, forgive me if I am skeptical. I have endured more than a decade of Wesson not acting honorably towards the Koreatown community, so excuse me if I don't believe his words.

Actions speak much louder than words. Wesson's "action" has been not listening to residents and stakeholders in this area. Instead, he has tried to drown out voices and opinions he does not like. He has called for the entire City to come to a "rally" he called for this Friday at 8:45 a.m. -- a rally to support temporary homeless shelters. This coincides with Ktown's announced gathering to speak at city council. We are rescheduling our gathering in an abundance of caution, to prevent potential misunderstandings that might arise out of language issues.

If you wish to join the movement to stand up against another fiasco-in-the-making, please go to www.koreatownvoice.com to be notified of future gatherings.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

1 message

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Cc: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 7:54 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice](#)

[LA TIMES: Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike](#)

[NY TIMES: The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors](#)

[CNBC: 2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis](#)

[SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS: Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races](#)

LA Times

How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice

By: Dave Zahniser, Cindy Chang, and Richard Winton

Last Monday morning, Los Angeles civic leaders were in suspense.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had said he would probably announce his pick for police chief that day.

Text messages and phone calls flew between people who were usually in the know. "Have you heard?" "Still no word?"

There was a reason no one had heard. The mayor had not yet made up his mind.

He had been mulling the possibilities for almost a month. This was perhaps the most important hiring decision he would make, at a time when he was considering a bid for president of the United States.

The three finalists for the job — LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos, Bill Scott, chief of the San Francisco Police Department, and LAPD Assistant Chief Michel Moore — were more similar than different. All were LAPD veterans who embraced the kinder, gentler ethos of the post-Rodney King era. Each was a believer in the reforms begun by previous chiefs, promising to deepen ties with minority residents and find ways to reduce the number of shootings by police officers.

Each brought his own distinctive skills, personality and political upsides.

The mayor had consulted dozens of people in the run-up to his decision: law enforcement experts, union presidents, civil rights advocates, nonprofit executives, police officers, and, perhaps most crucial, the man who is vacating the post: Police Chief Charlie Beck.

Garcetti had conducted four rounds of in-person interviews, one with City Council members taking the lead. At one point, he even assigned the three finalists written homework, asking them to outline their ideas on technology, training and other topics.

The clock ticked past noon. Time was running out to convene an afternoon news conference.

At 1:17 p.m., Garcetti picked up his phone. The number he dialed was Moore's.

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On May 2, the city's civilian police commissioners interviewed five LAPD veterans, drawn from 31 applicants for the job. They quickly settled on their top three.

Arcos was genial and empathetic, a product of Atwater Village when it was still gang-ridden and working-class. If chosen, he would make history as the city's first Latino police chief at a time when President Trump's hard-line deportation policies have made some immigrants fearful of law enforcement.

Scott grew up as an African American in Alabama during the civil rights era. After 27 years with the LAPD, he was well-known in South Los Angeles as a leader who viscerally felt the costs of arresting and incarcerating young black men.

And then there was Moore, known as a crime statistics wonk so well-versed in the ins and outs of managing the LAPD's 10,000 sworn officers that his learning curve as chief would essentially be zero.

Moore's father was Basque, and he is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, but his heritage has not played a large role in defining his identity at the LAPD.

Four of the five commissioners ranked Moore first, but that was no guarantee of success. Moore had also been the commission's top choice in 2009, when the job ended up going to Beck.

Beck was not retiring until June 27, but the appointment would need to be confirmed by the City Council, and Garcetti had indicated earlier that he hoped to be finished by the end of May.

The mayor set to work, seeking advice from dozens of people, including council members, immigrant rights advocates, former LAPD Chief Bill Bratton and San Francisco officials such as Dist. Atty. George Gascon.

Moore, who serves as Beck's No. 2, made it clear during the first round of interviews that he wasn't simply seeking to continue the policies of the current administration, Garcetti told The Times later. Instead, he offered his own ideas for running the LAPD.

Moore talked about ways that footage from the body cameras worn by police officers could be better used in the department's training, the mayor recalled. He also discussed how the LAPD could help homeless people get low-level citations expunged on their way to obtaining jobs and permanent housing.

"This was the first time where I could see him as a chief," the mayor said. "He had some pretty bold and brave ideas. It wasn't who people expected Michel Moore to be. Some have said he has a reputation for being real robotic, too tightly wound. But he was very much at ease."

Garcetti also turned to Connie Rice, a civil rights attorney who was once a fierce critic of the LAPD. Rice, a confidante to several mayors, had advocated for Beck the last time around. This time, she said, she did not publicly back a candidate, instead couching the conversation in terms of "if you want 'X,' you can select this candidate. If you want 'Y,' you can pick this person."

Plenty of others stepped forward to let Garcetti know they had a favorite.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights, left Garcetti a voicemail early on informing him that she favored Arcos.

Salas, a longtime Garcetti supporter, wanted a police chief from a neighborhood that had "consistently felt the brunt of aggressive policing." And she believed that a Latino police chief would be a countervailing force against a president "who is diminishing and demeaning" people of Mexican descent.

Garcetti also consulted Danny Bakewell, publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, an African American newspaper. Bakewell favored Scott, according to the mayor. So did a group of largely African American pastors who argued that the San Francisco chief has a deep understanding of South Los Angeles, which has had a fraught history with the LAPD.

Still, one of the city's most powerful voices on police reform came out in favor of Moore. Former Los Angeles Urban League President John Mack, who served on the police commission from 2005 to 2013, called Garcetti in late May, after the mayor had finished three rounds of interviews, and spent half an hour making his case.

Mack cited Moore's work on community policing and his track record on combating police brutality and racism in the LAPD. Moore "would build upon the reform, the progress, that's already been made," Mack said he told Garcetti.

As his self-imposed Monday deadline approached, Garcetti also called two police commissioners, Matt Johnson and Steve Soboroff — both Moore supporters.

Johnson said that in several conversations, the mayor delved into each candidate's ability to communicate with residents across the city as well as with the LAPD's rank-and-file officers. He was looking for a chief who would not impose an agenda but would listen and then win people over, Johnson said.

"He was thinking this through from every possible angle," Johnson said of Garcetti.

Soboroff spoke with Garcetti at about 2 p.m. Sunday. The two men discussed criteria such as who you would want at the helm if an earthquake occurred the day after the swearing-in. But Garcetti remained undecided.

Moore had been impressive from the first interview, Garcetti later told The Times. Scott began to look better and better, and Arcos remained in the mix.

"The candidates were so strong that he was really struggling," Soboroff said.

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In recent months, Garcetti, a Democrat, has traveled to early presidential primary states, including Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

As a Spanish-speaker of Mexican, Italian and Jewish heritage, Garcetti understands Los Angeles' divisive racial history. His father, Gil, was the district attorney who lost the O.J. Simpson prosecution in 1995.

On the national political stage, a police appointment makes a difference only if the chief does very well or very badly, said Jack Pitney, a professor of politics at Claremont McKenna College.

The publicity Garcetti would have gained by appointing Los Angeles' first Latino police chief would not have a lasting effect, particularly since the mayor already appeals to Latino voters with his fluent Spanish, Pitney said.

Moore ticked a box in another key area. As head of patrol operations, he is a major architect of the LAPD's crime-fighting strategies.

"If the chief were particularly ineffective in fighting crime, and people saw Los Angeles as being disorderly, that would be a liability," Pitney said. "Conversely, if the new chief is extremely effective, that's an asset."

The three finalists were not likely to differ substantively on immigration, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

But naming Arcos as chief would have been valuable symbolically, amplifying the LAPD's immigrant-friendly message, Guerra said.

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On Monday morning — the day of the expected announcement — Garcetti met with Beck at City Hall, hashing out the strengths of the three candidates in an hour-long conversation.

Beck, who promoted all three finalists to top positions in the LAPD, told The Times that he did not initially reveal his favorite to Garcetti. But partway into the mayor's search, Beck recommended Moore as a reformer who has played a key role in the department's major initiatives, from equipping officers with body cameras to training them how to reduce the use of deadly force.

Beck also thought Garcetti and Moore would get along.

"He has an unparalleled work ethic, an unparalleled breadth of experience with the LAPD. He's super smart and very responsive to those he works with," Beck said of Moore. "The mayor and he are definitely alike in that way."

Garcetti, for his part, said he did not feel that Beck was pushing him in a particular direction. Instead, the chief argued that chemistry and trust would be crucial in the decision.

"He said, 'This is all about who you click with,'" the mayor said.

Garcetti then reached out to Rice again. And he called Craig Lally, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents LAPD officers. The league did not publicly endorse a candidate, but it was known within City Hall that the group's board favored someone other than Moore.

Lally said he told the mayor that the next chief would have to confront the issue of patrol officers doing more with less, rushing to and from calls that often involve homeless or mentally ill people.

Until the end, Garcetti said, he was not leaning toward Moore but "went back and forth with these three guys pretty consistently."

About 15 minutes after making up his mind, Garcetti called Moore. He followed with a call to Beck. The news media were told to be at City Hall at 3:30 p.m.

As the cameras rolled, Garcetti stepped out, flanked by his new police chief.

LA Times

Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike

By: Dave Zahniser

When Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled his yearly budget in April, he promised major progress in an area long neglected by City Hall: reconstruction of the city's worst roads.

Garcetti called for the city to more than double the amount of money it spends on repairs to D- and F-ranked streets, where pavement is so damaged that it frequently needs to be rebuilt — typically at a cost of \$1 million or more per lane mile.

Yet a major portion of that work cannot happen unless the City Council increases the fee charged to utilities that rip up and repair the city's streets. And in recent weeks, business leaders have been pushing back on the idea.

Garcetti's spending plan calls for the city to collect \$70.7 million in Street Damage Restoration Fees in 2018-19, up from the \$8.3 million budgeted for the current year. About \$30 million of that new revenue would be spent to repair L.A.'s worst roads, with additional money going to maintain streets that are still in decent condition.

The plan has drawn written objections from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, AT&T and others, who say it needs more public vetting.

The Central City Assn., a group that focuses heavily on real estate development, warned city lawmakers that the fee increase would have a disproportionate effect on housing construction downtown, where streets are being torn up to provide utility hookups for new residential buildings.

"We do not want to see the Street Damage Restoration Fee become a means by which downtown ... becomes the primary funding source for road reconstruction throughout Los Angeles," Jessica Lall, the group's president and chief executive, wrote in a letter in May.

About 25% of L.A.'s streets, or about 7,000 lane miles, are considered to be in poor condition, according to the city's most recent evaluation.

The Street Damage Restoration Fee was created in 1998 to help the city offset the cost incurred when utilities cut into public streets. Public works officials say those cuts, even when they are refilled, cause pavement to degrade at a faster rate, forcing the city to make additional repairs.

Although businesses have been the most vocal, the biggest effect could ultimately be felt by the Department of Water and Power, which frequently performs work on underground water pipes and electrical lines.

If the increase is approved, the city-owned utility is expected to spend nearly \$38 million annually on street damage fees, according to an analysis prepared for city lawmakers.

The DWP, whose board is composed of mayoral appointees, has voiced no public objections to the proposal. But Jack Humphreville, a frequent critic of city spending, called the increase a "revenue grab" by the city's elected officials — one that will result in higher bills for DWP customers.

"They're ramrodding this thing through, and the ratepayers are going to get hosed," said Humphreville, who belongs to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, a group that appears before lawmakers each year to present its views on the city budget.

Humphreville questioned whether the fee increase is aimed at making up for funds lost when Garcetti and the City Council agreed to scale back the amount of money the DWP pays the city each year to balance the budget. The reduction was part of a legal settlement backed by lawmakers last year.

Garcetti and other city officials say there's no connection between the rise in the street damage fee and last year's reduction in the DWP payment. They say officials have spent years studying the need for the city to recoup all of the costs incurred when utilities dig trenches on public rights-of-way.

"When utilities and telecom companies cut into our streets, they should be the ones paying to fix the damage," Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar said in an email to The Times. "Right now, the city has to cover more than 90% of what it costs to fully restore the street after the work on an underground pipe, cable or gas line is done."

Comisar said Garcetti's proposal was spurred by a 2014 audit from City Controller Ron Galperin, which concluded that the city had missed out on up to \$190 million in damage fees from utilities that performed street work since 1998.

In that report, auditors concluded the fee had not been calculated in a way that reflected all of the costs borne by the city from utility repairs.

"It's been 12 years since this [fee] has been reset, so we have to catch up," said Kevin James, a Garcetti appointee who presides over the Board of Public Works, which recommended that the fee be increased and reworked. "I agree with the controller — we should have done it years ago, but we didn't."

Still, the City Council is hedging its bets on whether the city will receive all of the fee revenue planned by the mayor for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

When they approved Garcetti's budget May 21, city lawmakers ensured that more than \$19 million in repairs planned for D- and F-rated streets cannot move ahead without another council vote — a move designed to ensure the money is available to pay for the work.

Some council members have declined to commit themselves to the fee hike envisioned by the mayor, saying that they want to study it more closely.

The fee for ripping up residential streets ranges from \$5.18 to \$7.78 per square foot, depending on how recently a street has been repaired. Under the proposal heading to the council, it would be increased to \$8.24 per square foot, Comisar said.

On major streets, such as Sunset, Wilshire and Venice boulevards, the fee would be raised to \$19.44 per square foot. That fee currently ranges from \$14.18 to \$21.26, depending on when the most recent repairs occurred.

Business groups have also questioned Garcetti's push to change the way the street damage fees would be charged. Under the proposal, utilities would pay a fee not just for an area where a trench is dug, but for any part of the street that sits within 5 feet of that trench.

City officials say that when a trench is cut and refilled, nearby soil underneath the street shifts, reducing support for the pavement. That causes it to become weakened over time, requiring more frequent repairs, they say.

Garcetti's appointees on the Board of Public Works have also suggested that council members look at charging the damage fee to Southern California Gas Co. Such a step would require the negotiation of a new franchise agreement, mayoral aides say.

The gas company has argued that imposition of the fee would lead to higher construction costs that would ultimately be absorbed by its ratepayers.

"Simply put, these additional fees are passed along to our customers and have the potential to significantly impact new businesses or homes requesting utility service," Geoffrey Danker, manager of franchise, fees and planning for the utility, wrote in a letter to city lawmakers.

NY Times

The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors

By: Shane Goldmacher

Senator Elizabeth Warren has come calling as recently as April. Kamala Harris, the first-term senator of California, has made repeated visits, starting as early as her third month in office. Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is also no stranger to the big-money donor world of New York; he was here in April — his third such visit in three months.

It will be months before Mr. Biden, Ms. Harris, Ms. Warren or most potential presidential aspirants will barnstorm across the farmlands of Iowa, dig into a low-country boil in South Carolina or field questions at a town-hall meeting in New Hampshire.

But with American presidential races requiring an ever-dizzying amount of money, an early, behind-the-scenes 2020 contest is already taking place: the New York money primary.

Over passed appetizers, intimate dinners and private board room meet-and-greets, a parade of nationally ambitious Democrats have been cycling through the offices and living rooms of the Manhattan money set.

Top New York donors and Democratic fund-raisers, in more than two dozen interviews, said that their phones rarely stop buzzing as candidates blitz one of the densest concentrations of Democratic wealth in the country.

Others calling and visiting include Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor; Mayor **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles; former Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts; Gov. Steve Bullock of Montana; and the former Missouri Senate candidate, Jason Kander. Then there are the ambitious locals who already keep their donor lists close at hand: Gov. Andrew M.

Cuomo and Senators Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

"When a candidate calls me to talk about 'strategy and issues,' you grab hold of your wallet for dear life," said Robert Zimmerman, a prominent New York donor and a member of the Democratic National Committee who has been in touch with multiple prospective candidates.

For now, it is more about making connections than collecting cash, as few donors are committing at this stage. But to run a serious primary campaign, Democrats know they will have to amass tens of millions of dollars in the coming two years. Even if they got started as early as this July (and none of the top tier is expected to get into the race until after the midterms), a candidate would have to raise nearly \$55,000 per day to construct a \$30 million war chest by the end of 2019.

New York will be crucial to that task. More than \$500 million came from the New York City area to political campaigns in the last full election — the most of any single metropolitan region in the country, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. New York State had 15 of the top 50 ZIP codes for giving in the 2016 elections; no other state, even California, had half that many.

While similar donor dynamics are playing out in other affluent liberal enclaves, such as Silicon Valley and Hollywood, the donor chase is especially early and intense here because, for the first time since at least 2004, there is no prohibitive front-runner to corner the market on all that New York campaign cash, a role that Hillary Clinton had played in the last two open Democratic nominating contests.

In March, Mr. Biden was the special guest at a \$10,000 per-person dinner benefiting House Democrats, at the home of the billionaire hedge fund manager James S. Chanos. In April, he attended a private fund-raising lunch at the home of a major Democratic donor, Dennis Mehiel, for his political action committee.

The night after Mr. Biden's April visit, Ms. Warren mingled with donors at the Manhattan home of Mark Green, a former New York City public advocate, the official reason being her 2018 re-election bid (for which she has already stockpiled \$15 million). A few months earlier, Meyer S. Frucher, the vice chairman of Nasdaq, hosted another fund-raising reception for Ms. Warren, according to people familiar with the gatherings.

Many donors said they gravitated toward politicians focused on the 2018 elections. Laetitia Garriott de Cayeux, who opened her Murray Hill home to Mr. Biden for the February event, said she did so "because I see Joe Biden going to every corner of the country to get Democrats elected in 2018."

Sarah Kovner, an influential Democratic fund-raiser in the city, said she ignores those too focused on the presidential campaign. "Fine — but not now, not from me. Not with Jon Tester in trouble and Claire McCaskill and Kyrsten Sinema in need," she said, rattling off the names of Democrats in key Senate races. "That's what I'm concentrating on."

Almost every politician visiting New York can claim a purpose other than their own unspoken ambition — Mr. Biden for his PAC, Ms. Warren for her re-election.

Mr. McAuliffe, a prolific and voracious fund-raiser who was once the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been raising money for a new group focused on redistricting. But when Mr. McAuliffe recently met with donors at an event that the longtime Clinton adviser, Douglas J. Band, helped put together, his spiel included a half-hour on his successes as governor, according to two attendees, despite saying he was focused entirely on the midterms.

Ms. Harris, who was sworn into her Senate seat in January 2017, trekked to New York two months into her term to put on a free "thank you" event for her big New York contributors at the Regency Hotel in March 2017. That summer, Michael Kempner, a public-relations executive and top Democratic bundler, hosted an event for her at his spread in the Hamptons. She and Senator Booker attended another dinner with politically engaged black executives in Bridgehampton, N.Y. More recently, the fashion retailer Lauren Santo Domingo, who is married to a billionaire beer heir, organized an event for Ms. Harris's PAC in February.

Mr. Patrick, now at Bain Capital, the private equity firm made famous for launching Mitt Romney's business career, does not have a political entity he is raising money for, but he has still kept in touch with New York donors, including attending a donor dinner last spring and an event to mingle with contributors more recently at the Manhattan offices of Morgan Stanley, according to people familiar with the events.

The lone Democratic outlier from the money chase is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who bypassed large contributors in his 2016 presidential bid and still raised about \$230 million, almost entirely from a torrent of small online donations — a model that many Democrats are trying to emulate.

But in an era when a single billionaire can, more or less, sustain a presidential candidate through a super PAC, the courtship of the donor class has anything but slowed.

There is a distinctive hierarchy to this donor dance: the bigger the contributor, the smaller the gathering. Billionaires and the biggest bundlers get almost limitless one-on-one time. The next tranche of mega-millionaires and political financiers get intimate dinners or office gatherings. Larger receptions are for standard-fare contributors.

Ronald Perelman, the billionaire donor, organized a fund-raiser for Ms. Harris's PAC at the offices of his company, MacAndrews & Forbes, last December. Earlier in the year, Mr. Perelman, who contributes to both Republicans and Democrats, had another ambitious Californian, Mr. Garcetti, for a cocktail hour among donors at his estate in the Hamptons.

Mr. Garcetti, who is known to hand out his personal cellphone number to contributors and encourage them to stay in touch, was last in New York in March, a trip that included some private catch-up time with top contributors as he raises money for his federal PAC to help Democrats in the midterms.

Another politician whom donors mentioned as solicitous of New York is Steve Bullock, the governor of Montana. He pitches himself as the rare Democrat who can get elected and get along in a deep red state. He, too, has a federal PAC and has been hiring strategists with national experience.

Other younger politicians, who are far from national figures, are still seeking exposure to the moneyed class of Manhattan, including Pete Buttigieg, the 36-year-old mayor of South Bend, Ind., (four visits already in 2018) and Mr. Kander, the 37-year-old former Missouri secretary of state who lost a Senate race in 2016 (two recent visits included donor events).

As Stu Loeser, a veteran Democratic strategist in New York, put it, "The road to the White House runs down 57th Street."

It is more than a figure of speech. In the 2016 cycle, two of the top five ZIP codes for political giving in America — 10022 and 10019, which span the length of 57th Street across Midtown Manhattan just south of Central Park — combined for \$120 million in donations, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

New York contributors say there has not been this much activity since at least 2003, the last open Democratic contest without Mrs. Clinton.

While Mrs. Clinton was seen as holding a near-stranglehold on prominent New York donors, none of the current New York-area politicians considered possible 2020 candidates — Ms. Gillibrand, Mr. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio or Mr. Booker — engender a similar sense of near-absolute loyalty.

"You can analogize this to a dating process in which there are still a lot of blind dates and first dates but not yet a lot of second dates or third dates," said Steven Rattner, a Wall Street executive and veteran Democratic fund-raiser. "Let alone anyone going steady or getting married."

CNBC

2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis

By: Julia Boorstin

One of the biggest challenges for the company founders and CEOs, right up there with scaling the company into a sustainable business, is finding qualified employees. Yet those on CNBC's Disruptor 50 list — the 50 companies CNBC believes have the potential to upend multibillion-dollar industries to become the next generation of great public companies — revealed they are actually seeing progress when it comes to hiring.

This is according to CNBC's annual survey of CNBC's Disruptor 50 companies, conducted from April 16 to May 16, 2018. More than 60 percent of respondents said it's easier right now to find qualified employees to fill open positions than it was a year ago; 11 percent went so far to say it's "a lot easier."

That's a little surprising, as small-business owners continue to report that finding qualified workers is a huge challenge. A May study of small businesses by the National Federation of Independent Business, a trade group representing 325,000 small and independent business owners across America, one third of small businesses have a job opening they can't fill, and nearly a quarter of all small-business owners claim that finding qualified workers is their single most important business problem. The April 2018 NFIB report revealed that while 57 percent of small businesses are hiring or planning to hire, 88 percent of them report difficulties finding qualified candidates.

So why are Disruptors having an easier time? One reason could be the fact that these fast growing, higher-profile companies are just more appealing to applicants than the average small business. In fact, three of this year's Disruptor 50 companies, and five now-public former Disruptors, appeared on LinkedIn's 2018 List of 50 Top Companies where professionals want to work.

It could point to an even more specific reason. A March 2017 study from PwC found a majority of women (and an almost

equal majority of men) weigh the diversity of company leadership and workforce when they decide whether or not to work for an employer. So it might not be a coincidence that many of the Disruptor 50 companies that say it's easier or even "a lot easier" to find qualified employees — like Rent the Runway and Thinx — have female CEOs.

A recent Global Information Security Workforce study supports their findings, at least in the information technology sector: Its study claims that as many as 1.8 million IT jobs could be unfilled by 2022. That is 20 percent more than what the same study predicted two years earlier.

Rodney Williams, the CEO and co-founder of three-time disruptor Lisnr, this year at No. 22, has reaped the benefits of being a desired place to work, especially in Cincinnati, where Lisnr was founded.

"In Cincinnati we were able to attract the superstars," said Williams, speaking at CNBC's Disruptor 50 Roadshow event in Los Angeles last month. Still, he said, the company struggled to fill management positions. "We had a challenge finding talent that had done this before, who knew the nuances of ... taking a business to the next step." Lisnr has since set up shop in Oakland, California, where it's been able to tap the Silicon Valley talent pool.

Back in Los Angeles, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said the city's assortment of universities helps ensure that local tech entrepreneurs can find plenty of talent, but there's a dramatic hiring gap in other industries. "What keeps me up is not whether tech companies will have those workers, but closing the gap in other places." By this he means finding qualified workers in fields other than in tech.

"We have trade jobs. We have things at the port where 40 percent of the goods come into America. We want to make sure those high-paying jobs stay there for the future. Electrifying our trucks and our logistics fleet to reduce pollution. Those are the gaps I think that I want to fill in terms of skills, to be able to put people into community college and find those levels."

He added: "If we are going to build 40 years' worth of rapid transit lines, we can get those workers from other states. But we should be growing them here so they don't need a college degree to have a middle-class job as a laborer, electrician, a construction worker."

Nationwide, however, the information technology sector has the highest rate of job openings among all sectors of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department's most recent survey of Job Openings and Labor Turnover (also known as the JOLT Survey) reveals there were 178,000 open tech jobs in April, up more than 50 percent from April 2017.

So while some Disruptor 50 companies may have their pick of the best candidates, tech firms in general have increasingly more open positions, with increasingly fewer people available to fill them.

San Jose Mercury News

Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races

By: Paul Rogers

Most voters already know that Gavin Newsom and Dianne Feinstein — who easily advanced to the November general election in their races for governor and U.S. senator — were among the big winners in Tuesday's California primary election.

But there's another group also popping the champagne this week: environmentalists.

Across California and the Bay Area, environmental groups had one of their best elections ever. They won nearly every major race they contested, securing billions of dollars for parks, beaches, water projects and public transportation, and at the same time helped kill plans to develop Silicon Valley hillsides and a proposal to change the way the state spends money from its greenhouse gas auctions.

"People want open space and parks, they want clean air and clean water," said Deb Callahan, executive director of the Bay Area Open Space Council, a coalition of more than 50 parks agencies and land trusts. "And clearly people are willing to pay for it. There's an understanding that you need to invest in priorities."

The biggest victory statewide for conservation groups was the passage of Proposition 68, a \$4.1 billion parks and water bond that voters easily approved 56-44 percent.

The measure only passed in 27 of California's 58 counties, but it won by huge margins of 65 percent or more in most Bay Area counties and 61 percent in Los Angeles County, which easily offset "no" votes from the Central Valley and counties such as Riverside and San Bernardino, where it narrowly failed.

Proposition 68 is the first statewide funding measure for parks approved by California voters in 12 years, with about \$2.8 billion headed to parks and wildlife, and \$1.3 billion going to water and flood control projects, much of it to be handed out by the Legislature and state agencies through competitive grants.

Environmental groups donated \$6.4 million on the Yes on 68 campaign, with major funding coming from the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Save the Redwoods League and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Green groups faced opposition from taxpayer groups but no organized campaign against them. They spent heavily on social media, blanketed farmers markets, ran volunteer-driven phone banks and cultivated events with high-profile supporters such as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

They also secured endorsements from business groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Orange County Business Council.

The measure will mean millions for urban parks, soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, bike paths and public swimming pools — with a special emphasis on low-income urban areas. Also slated for funding are trails, beaches, forests, visitor centers and campgrounds at state and regional parks, and new funding for groundwater cleanup, flood control and drinking water treatment plants.

Although business groups regularly battle with environmentalists in other states, many in the Bay Area and Southern California are increasingly finding common ground, said Larry Gerston, a professor emeritus of political science at San Jose State University. That's because they see parks, recreation, clean air and clean water as a "quality of life" selling point to lure and keep talented workers, particularly in the face of high housing costs and traffic.

"There's a package," Gerston said. "It's salary, it's benefits, but it's also the weather and a better environment, and the ocean and parks."

Among the other big wins by environmental groups Tuesday:

- Proposition 72, a tax break for people who install rain barrels or other systems on their rooftops to conserve water, passed 84-16 percent.
- Proposition 70 went down in a landslide defeat, 64-36 percent. It would have allowed Republicans in Sacramento more of a say in how the state spends the money it generates from the "cap and trade" permits it auctions to oil refineries, factories and other large emitters of greenhouse gases. Environmentalists worried it would mean less money for public transit, solar rebates and other conservation measures.
- Measure B and C in San Jose. An attempt by developers to allow the construction of 910 senior housing units on vacant land in the city's Evergreen area, failed 58-42 percent. The measure was opposed by environmental groups who said it would transform 200 acres of hillsides into a wealthy gated community without environmental review. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who also opposed Measure B, led efforts to qualify Measure C, which makes it more difficult to develop open areas in Evergreen, Almaden Valley and Coyote Valley. It passed 60-40 percent.
- Regional Measure 3. A \$3 toll increase over the next six years at seven bridges that cross San Francisco Bay, but not the Golden Gate Bridge, to raise \$4.5 billion for transportation projects, won 54-46 percent. The measure was backed by business groups but also had the support of Save the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenbelt Alliance and the League of Conservation Voters. Although it funds freeway improvements, it also will expand BART, Caltrain, ferry service, buses and bike lanes. "We've got to reduce our reliance on cars to cut greenhouse emissions and roadway runoff pollution to the bay," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.
- Measure C in Napa County, which would limit the number of oak trees that vineyard owners can cut down on hillsides, narrowly led Friday night 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent, despite farmers and the wine industry heavily outspending conservation groups.
- In Davis, Measure H, which renewed a \$49 annual parcel tax for parks, bike paths, swimming pools and street trees for another 20 years, was approved 73-28 percent.
- In Santa Cruz, 76 percent of voters approved Measure U, an advisory measure that opposes recently announced plans by UC-Santa Cruz to expand campus enrollment by 10,000 students to 28,000 by 2040.
- In Martinez, Measure I, which requires voter approval to develop areas zoned for open space or parks, led late Friday, but by tiny margin more than Measure F, which requires voter approval for such changes but only on publicly owned land. Measure I had 51.37 percent and Measure F had 50.87 percent of the vote, yet thousands of mail-in ballots in Contra Costa County remain to be counted, so the results could change. The measure with the most votes will prevail if both pass.

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SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

1 message

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Sun, Jul 29, 2018 at 6:59 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

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[DAILY BREEZE: Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women](#)

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LA Times

Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?

By: Steve Lopez

Is he or isn't he?

That's the question for L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

Is he running for president of the United States, as has been speculated for months, or not?

If so, and it comes down to Trump or Garcetti, I'm with Garcetti.

Then again, if it comes down to Trump or a fig tree, I like figs.

But don't you have to have your own house in order before you consider trading up? Given the current state of Los Angeles, which has become the nation's largest tent city, it's not as if Garcetti could put himself out there on a "mission accomplished" victory tour.

It's hard to say, though, whether Garcetti is going to run, because he doesn't seem to be entirely clear on the matter. He claims he isn't focused on life after City Hall, despite trips to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, three early-voting states you do not fly to just to sample the ice cream.

"I'm not interested in my next job," Garcetti told me Friday by phone, speaking from Hanoi in Vietnam. He's on a 10-day Asian tour, drumming up business and tourism for Los Angeles.

But then he said something that made it sound as though he's going through a bit of a Walter Mitty phase. James Thurber's character imagined himself as a fighter pilot or surgeon, and I'm willing to bet Garcetti has imagined what it would be like to wake up in the White House.

"I'm concerned about this country, period. I think all of us should be. This is the worst moment I've lived in in my lifetime," he said, killing any chance he might have had to get invited to Mar a Lago.

Garcetti listed, among his many concerns, climate change, civil rights and America's stature abroad.

"There are a couple of things missing in this country: kindness, moral leadership, and people who deliver, who don't invent problems they can't solve, but look at real problems and address them. Potholes, infrastructure, making college free, [raising] the minimum wage," Garcetti said.

Also missing, by the way, are the records on what it costs taxpayers for Garcetti's security detail to travel with him. The LAPD has refused to say, Garcetti has deferred to the police, and the L.A. Times has filed a lawsuit, which I'll get to in a minute.

First, let's talk politics.

No one has ever gone directly from any City Hall to the White House, and you would have better odds playing the lottery than betting on Garcetti to break the spell.

But who knows?

If a barking braggart can insult women for their looks, make fun of a disabled guy, set race relations back 50 years, lie pathologically, boast about grabbing women by their crotches, tell working stiffs he's too smart to pay taxes, insist the first black president was from Africa and still become president, a reasonably intelligent Chihuahua could get elected, and no one can be ruled out.

"Garcetti has as much of a chance as Trump did two years before the 2016 election, and as much as Obama had two years before 2008," said Fernando Guerra, director of Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Even then, how would Garcetti beat Trump, whose happy hordes think he's the lord and redeemer?

A third-party candidate like Ohio Gov. John Kasich draws Republican votes from Trump and the Democrat slips through the back door of the White House, Guerra theorized.

The problem is that Garcetti is so far down the list of potential Democratic nominees, he's almost invisible. Even among Californians, you'd have to rank him behind U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, if not U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff.

And then you've got Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden at the top of the list, each of them miles ahead of Garcetti in terms of name recognition and access to money.

A lot of political insiders guess Garcetti is more interested in branding himself as a contender so he gets consideration for a Cabinet post if a Democrat beats Trump, or because it might help in a run to replace California Sen. Dianne Feinstein when she retires.

But let's say against all odds, Garcetti emerges as a true contender. He's young, he's Mexican-Italian-Jewish, he speaks Spanish, he talks a good game on tech and transit and the future of cities, he's green, he's a sharp public speaker.

What happens then?

A TV ad runs. One minute, maybe, although 30 seconds could do the trick. You see homeless encampments everywhere, hellish traffic and caravans of people leaving town for affordable housing in Nevada. The narrator, in one of those dreadful tones you hear only in political ads, ticks off the sad litany of budget deficits, soaring DWP rates and record payouts for police misconduct and dangerous roads, with decrepit, rupturing sewer lines and sinkholes big enough to swallow vehicles.

Goodbye, White House.

You can't put all of that on Garcetti. But he's been at City Hall for 17 years. His record is mixed, with a nice little list of triumphs if not a great history of political courage. But if you haven't heard, they play dirty in politics, and in a dogfight, Los Angeles will be made to resemble a Garcetti hellhole, to borrow a phrase from Le Grande Orange.

Look, I don't have a problem with Garcetti traveling all over the place on city business. L.A. is an international city and he ought to be out and about, cheerleading and cutting deals.

And I don't have a problem with him running for president, if that's what he's doing.

But when he's on the road for his own pursuits rather than ours, we shouldn't have to pay for it.

Times reporter Dakota Smith reported last September that Garcetti had spent roughly one-third of the previous 12 months out of town. (Garcetti told me Friday morning he disputes the numbers, arguing that he was in town for parts of the days in which he was marked absent.)

Smith reported that Garcetti was out of California for campaign or political events for 17 days. In addition, of his 112 days out of town, 62 were listed as vacation time or no explanation was provided.

So far this year, Garcetti told me, he's been away only five days on what he would call political ventures.

The Times argued in its lawsuit that city officials are violating the California Public Records Act and the California Constitution in refusing to turn over the records. But the Los Angeles Police Department argues that the details could compromise the mayor's safety, and Garcetti has taken its side.

"To be clear, I pay my own costs," Garcetti told me about travel that is not related to city business.

He said he once told his father, the former district attorney, that he'd rather not have security with him. He said his father told him:

"This isn't for you. This is for your family."

The mayor added:

"I'm not going to go into details about the sorts of threats I get."

OK, fine.

But Garcetti and the police could tell us what the security costs are — airfare, lodging and vehicle rental — without giving up any details that would compromise his security.

Or better yet, when Garcetti is on personal pursuits, he should pay the security costs out of his own campaign funds or his own pocket.

That could only help with his presidential bid.

Politico

California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race

By: Jeremy B. White

SAN FRANCISCO — If there's a point of universal agreement in California politics, it's that the state's housing crisis has spiraled to urgent proportions.

But a ballot initiative designed to tackle the prohibitive cost of housing stands to fracture Democrats here, pitting some of the state's top elected officials against each other and placing some of the party's most influential donors and interest groups at odds.

It's a conflict that resonates beyond California's borders as more and more major cities struggle to do something about the skyrocketing cost of finding a place to live. And the issue is likely to surface in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries since it afflicts some of the biggest and most influential blue states, ranging from California to Illinois to New York.

Already, the initiative has split two prominent California politicians with national aspirations and bases in the urban hubs where the housing crunch is particularly acute: Los Angeles mayor and potential presidential contender **Eric Garcetti** supports the measure, saying it would restore needed local authority to address the crisis. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has embraced an aggressive housing agenda as the frontrunner to be the state's next governor, does not.

The problem may be more acute in California, where soaring rents and a dearth of affordable homes — both of which are helping to drive one of the nation's worst homelessness epidemics — have pushed housing to the top of the agenda.

The issue has already reverberated all the way to Congress, where California Sen Kamala Harris — herself a top 2020 Democratic prospect — earlier this month unveiled a bill to offer tax credits to renters, saying "America's affordable housing crisis has left too many families behind."

In California this fall, voters will be weighing in on a ballot initiative that seeks to hold down rising costs by repealing a 25-year-old state law, the Costa-Hawkins act, that sharply restricts cities' ability to impose rent control.

Enacted with the real estate lobby's support after over a dozen cities had expanded rent control, the law barred those protections from applying to condominiums, single-family homes and new housing. That froze rent control in major cities: it's limited to properties built before October 1978 in Los Angeles and before June 1979 in San Francisco.

"Getting rid of these protections overall, I think, may have unintended consequences on housing production that could be profoundly problematic," Newsom said at a candidate forum earlier this year.

For much of the Democratic base, Proposition 10 offers an obvious antidote to a ubiquitous problem: limiting how much landlords can jack up the rent, supporters say, will make the state more affordable and allay accelerating displacement. The California Democratic Party overwhelmingly voted to support Proposition 10 this month amid chants of "the rent is too damn high."

"No one should have to make a decision between paying rent and buying food or healthcare. It's shocking to me that there is even a debate about rent control at this point," said Susie Shannon, a party activist who spearheaded the convention push.

"An awful lot of people think that rent control's part of the answer to our affordable housing problem," state party chair Eric Bauman said. "Amongst the activist group, the vast majority see this as a panacea."

But that stance is running up against warnings from the housing industry that passage of the ballot measure will shrivel the already-scarce supply of rental units and discourage new building, halting recent political momentum on a possible solution. It's an argument that powerful interest groups — including apartment owners, developers, realtors and construction industry unions, all of whom wield significant clout in Sacramento and have contributed heavily to Democrats — are spending millions to amplify.

"Doing away with Costa-Hawkins will limit construction — developers aren't going to want to develop, owners aren't going to want to build if it doesn't make their projects pencil out," said Ron Miller, executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. "The way to get the prices down is supply and demand. We need to keep building."

Research on the effects of rent control is decidedly mixed. California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office found a consensus that the policy keeps people in rent-controlled units but incentivizes landlords to convert rentals into condominiums or other units intended for ownership; it's less conclusive whether rent control stymies new construction and increases rents for non-rent-controlled units.

Opponents of Prop 10 have circulated a recent Stanford University study that concluded San Francisco's rent control laws fueled gentrification, reducing the citywide housing supply and driving up average rents. Rent control advocates say the study proves the policy works, noting that it found people in rent-controlled units paid billions less and were more likely to remain.

The research may be disputed, but the battle lines are becoming clear. Outside of the building unions, labor has been unified in support, with powerhouse groups like the California Teachers Association arguing that housing represents an existential issue for their working-and-middle-class members.

"We're facing a severe teacher shortage in California and one of the main issues is affordable housing - for teachers being able to live in the communities where they teach," said Eric Heins, president of the CTA. "When I lived in San Francisco the only way I was able to afford to live there was with a rent-controlled apartment."

That political landscape, backers of Proposition 10 say, sets up a stark choice for voters: "whether they want to side with the real estate industry on this or with a broad range of community groups," said Dean Preston of Tenants Together, who argued the idea has gained momentum as the housing crisis has worsened.

The sense of urgency was on display earlier this year in Sacramento, when lawmakers took up a bill to repeal Costa-Hawkins. It died after a contentious hearing that saw hours of emotional testimony, with people jamming the hearing room and lining up down the hallway.

"It is, in my opinion, a conversation we can no longer avoid, and it presents an issue that is crying out for relief," said Assemblyman Richard Bloom, the measure's backer, warning that the years-long construction process means new housing "will be too late for too many Californians."

In the preceding months, lawmakers in Sacramento had debated bills that sought to expedite construction in part by limiting the tools cities and counties have to block development. A measure that would have overridden local zoning rules for construction near public transit drew national attention earlier this year as a potential model for other states struggling with exorbitant housing costs — and while the measure failed, the idea is certain to resurface.

Opponents of Prop 10 warn that the measure's passage would halt progress toward more construction, pushing developers into wait-and-see mode.

"I think that should Prop 10 pass, then all of the efforts to try and expedite or make it easier for the development of housing, particularly affordable housing, I think you can for all intents and purposes take a breath for 5 years," said Tom Bannon, CEO of the California Apartment Association.

That leaves California voters with a momentous decision to make. Kevin Reikes, who is not working on the Proposition 10 campaign but has in the past conducted polling for apartment owner and realtor groups, predicted voters would jump at a chance to change the status quo on housing.

"People want to be able to do something," he said, "and this will be a vehicle for the voters to do something."

The Advocate

No Charges Against Political Donor Accused of Drugging Man to Death

By: Ariel Sobel

Despite calls from the black and gay communities, prosecutors have declined to file charges against Democratic donor Ed Buck in connection with the fatal overdose of a 26-year-old sex worker in his West Hollywood home.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office issued a document Thursday that stated "admissible evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt" that Buck was responsible for the death of Gemmel Moore in July 2017, the Los Angeles Times reports.

Buck is a longtime political donor who once ran for a seat on the West Hollywood City Council. His Facebook page has boasted dozens of photos of him with prominent Democrats, including former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Moore had been homeless and was working as an escort.

Since Moore's death was classified as an accidental methamphetamine overdose, numerous young black gay men have alleged that Buck has a fetish for shooting drugs into youthful black men he picks up off the street or on hookup sites. Moore had written about Buck injecting him with dangerous drugs before his death.

"I've become addicted to drugs and the worst one at that," Moore wrote in his journal in December 2016. "Ed Buck is the one to thank. He gave me my first injection of crystal meth."

"I ended up back at Buck [sic] house again and got manipulated [sic] into slamming again. I even went to the point where I was forced to doing 4 within a 2day [sic] period. This man is crazy and its [sic] sad. Will I ever get help?" he continued.

The last entry in Moore's diary, dated December 3, 2016, is especially suspicious.

"If it didn't hurt so bad, I'd kill myself but I'll let Ed Buck do it for now," the deceased wrote.

In wake of Moore's death, Congresswoman Karen Bass returned the \$250 she received from Buck and put it toward Moore's funeral expenses. West Hollywood Councilmember John D'Amico gave back the \$25 contribution he received.

Homicide investigators July 10 presented potential charges for Buck, including murder, voluntary manslaughter, and furnishing and possessing drugs on July 10. The District Attorney's office reviewed and rejected them all.

Buck's attorney Seymour Amster said his client had received a "complete exoneration." He told the Times, "Gemmel Moore's death was a tragedy. It's now clear that Ed Buck had nothing to do with it."

Daily Breeze

Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women

Bob Hope himself would likely have saluted – and said "thanks for making new memories."

The USO center that bears his name moved into sharp new quarters on Friday at Los Angeles International Airport. USO officials and volunteers, members of the armed forces and lots of L.A. dignitaries marched into the ground level of LAX's Theme Building on Center Way.

"The men and women of our armed forces put their lives on the line to protect us every day — they deserve a warm welcome when they come home, and when they're traveling through our airport," said Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said in a news release. "This beautiful new facility opens a new chapter in the rich history of the Bob Hope USO at LAX, and I am proud to see it open its doors today."

At more than 7,00 square feet, the new center is twice the size of the airport's former USO near Terminal 3, with more room to offer more services to active military men and women – and their families.

"We are proud to open the doors of our iconic LAX Theme Building to our service members and their families, as the new home of the Bob Hope USO," said Deborah Flint, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) in a news release. "This renovated facility provides the Bob Hope USO an incredible space that reflects progress on our commitment to creating a world-class airport experience for all of our guests."

The center includes a tribute to Hope, who for decades devoted his time to entertaining American troops in the U.S. and abroad, during times of war and peace alike.

The facility includes a snack bar, dining room, private family rooms, movie theater TV lounge, family video-connection rooms, an outdoor pavilion and more. Services are provided free to service members 24 hours a day all year 'round, staffed by more than 250 volunteers.

Information: bobhopeuso.org.

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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

1 message

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Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?](#)

LA Daily News

Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised \$2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving \$1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign

of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.



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FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

1 message

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Fri, Mar 1, 2019 at 7:18 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: L.A. school board asks property owners to show support with more tax money](#)
[SFV BUSINESS JOURNAL: VICA Opposes School Tax Measure](#)
[LA TIMES: L.A. Metro will study how to make driving more expensive — in your car or in an Uber](#)
[CITY NEWS SERVICE: Metro inching toward taxing cars in LA County, even if you use Uber or Lyft](#)
[CURBED LA: Metro directors order congestion pricing study](#)
[LA TIMES: ShakeAlertLA users concerned about earthquake app's bugs, crashes and security issues](#)
[LAIST: The Amount Of Snow Near Tahoe Could Be Good News For SoCal's Water Supply](#)

LA Times

L.A. school board asks property owners to show support with more tax money

By: Howard Blume

Los Angeles school officials once saw the January teachers' strike as a calamity. Now they realize it created an opportunity.

Angelenos opened their hearts to teachers who talked of poor conditions at schools — and now they will have the chance to open their wallets in a June 4 special election.

The Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday to ask voters to raise their taxes in support of schools — the same voters who backed striking teachers by honking horns, handing out tamales, walking picket lines and keeping kids at home.

The tax measure, if approved, is projected to raise about \$500 million a year, enough to close all or most of the gap between what the district already is spending and the revenue it receives from state and federal sources.

The tax would be calculated at 16 cents per square foot on a property owner's habitable indoor space. It would apply to commercial buildings as well as single-family homes and apartments. There would be exemptions for senior citizens and those relying on disability payments to get by.

The levy, called parcel tax, will go before all voters living within the L.A. Unified School District and would require a two-thirds majority. It would be in effect for 12 years.

To sell the tax, the nation's second-largest school system will assert that the money would do more than merely preserve the status quo.

The approved wording of the tax measure hits on themes teachers raised during the strike, promising that the additional funding would retain and attract quality teachers, reduce class sizes and provide more counseling, nursing and library services as well as support coursework in science, math, preschool, career education and the arts, while also ensuring safe and well-maintained schools. In other words, L.A. Unified wants more resources — on top of a \$7.5-billion budget — to carry out the essence of its work.

Officials said they are ready to make the pitch.

"Education continues to be at the forefront of what working people want to invest in," said school board President Monica Garcia. "Our job is to figure out: Can we play offense?"

"Many people judge our schools: 'You waste money and the kids are loud,'" said board member Richard Vladovic. "You don't know about the million miracles that occur in our schools every day."

"The one thing we don't want to do is fail," said board member George McKenna. The district, he said, must go "all out" in its campaign.

An analysis provided by the office of L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti** says half of L.A. Unified homeowners would pay less than \$235 a year. Most L.A. Unified homeowners would pay \$100 to \$450 a year. Garcetti supports the tax.

"There's no higher priority for me and for this region than improving the quality of public education," the mayor said Thursday. "We need to do it for our kids. We need to do it for our economy. We need to do it for our future."

He emphasized the power of the walkout: "We start from a very strong base because there is the highest awareness of the needs of our schools that I've experienced in my adult life as a result of the strike and an increased focus nationally on public education."

The tax measure came together quickly after results were compiled from a poll commissioned by L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner in the wake of the six-day action by members of United Teachers Los Angeles. The poll indicated growth in support for increased funding of public education.

But pollsters also warned that the strike effect could fade, which prompted officials to place the tax increase on the June ballot rather than wait for November or even next year. The sooner the money could be approved, officials said, the sooner it could flow to the schools. The deadline for getting on the June ballot is the end of next week.

At a special board meeting Thursday, speakers raised various concerns.

Advocates of charter schools want a proportionate share of proceeds for these privately operated, publicly funded campuses.

"Public charter school students are entitled to the same level and quality of educational services," said Roxann Nazario, who has a child at a charter in the San Fernando Valley. "I ask that you stand for all kids."

Cassy Horton, an official with the California Charter Schools Assn., objected to vague draft language that said money would be distributed to charters "fairly." Charters serve nearly 20% of district students and should expect about \$100 million of an annual \$500-million levy, she said.

The final version struck out "fairly."

But downtown resident Isaac Abdul Haqq took the opposite view.

"We don't want our tax dollars going to the charter industry," he said. "This has just been thrust upon us without any real community input."

The teachers union during the strike spoke out for a cap on new charters, which compete with L.A. Unified for students.

Other speakers wanted the tax to end sooner or called for stronger accountability. A hospital industry representative said hospitals should be exempted. The Chamber of Commerce wanted a flat tax per property.

Board members listened but made no further changes, saying that that the measure already incorporated various compromises and that time was of the essence.

"This will make things better and I'll take better," board member Nick Melvoin said.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

San Fernando Valley Business Journal
VICA Opposes School Tax Measure
By: Mark Madler

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association has come out against a June ballot measure for a parcel tax to raise money for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The Van Nuys business advocacy group opposes the tax because there is no plan on how the money will be spent and some of the exemptions granted to not pay the tax.

"We are unhappy it is being rammed through," VICA President Stuart Waldman told the Business Journal. "There was no opportunity for discussion or negotiation."

The school board wanted to get the measure on the June ballot rather than in November to "ride on the coattails of the positive feelings" from the six-day teachers strike in early January, Waldman said.

"That is bad way to do policy," he added.

The school district board on Thursday had unanimously approved placing for voter approval a new annual assessment of 16 cents per square foot on property owners' indoor space. It is projected to raise about \$500 million a year for the 12-year life of the tax.

That amount is 10 times the amount of any other parcel tax per square foot that has been passed, Waldman said.

For example, Measure A, passed by Los Angeles County voters in November 2016, was for a parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot to fund parks, recreation centers and water conservation projects.

VICA also did not like the number of exceptions. Senior citizens and those who rely on disability payments would not have to pay the tax. That would mean that homeowners in wealthy areas 65 years or older would not pay, Waldman said.

Additionally, the school district has not made a good faith effort to show that they can spend the money well, Waldman continued.

"We don't know how the money is going to be spent," he added. "We don't know how it is going to make L.A. Unified better. There is no plan."

Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** came out in favor of the parcel tax, saying that he was grateful to the school board for giving city residents an opportunity to bring to life the new contract between the teachers and school district in a way that can transform students' lives.

"A free and excellent public education is the right of every child — and when thousands of Angelenos took to the streets in support of students and teachers last month, it was because we all agree on a fundamental truth: we have to give our children every possible resource to succeed in the classroom and take their knowledge into the world," Garcetti said in a statement.

LA Times

L.A. Metro will study how to make driving more expensive — in your car or in an Uber

By: Laura Nelson

In an attempt to tame traffic, Los Angeles County transportation officials Thursday took their biggest steps yet toward making driving in the region more expensive, approving studies on how to impose more tolls, taxes or other fees on private driving and ride-hailing trips.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority voted unanimously to move forward with the region's first comprehensive analysis of congestion pricing. One study will analyze the effects on traffic if drivers were charged a per-mile tax or an entry fee to certain neighborhoods, or if more carpool lanes were converted to toll lanes.

Another study will detail how many trips are made by Uber and Lyft, what effect the ubiquitous for-hire cars have on traffic congestion, and whether adding a fee could shift some riders toward carpooling or public transit.

That same study also will examine whether to levy a fee on shared bicycles, electric scooters and other devices. Agency estimates show that charging \$1 a day for each device, regardless of the number of trips, could collect \$580 million over a decade.

The proposals to charge more to drive, bike or scoot in the region were introduced as a way to raise funds for transportation projects before the 2028 Olympic Games. But Metro directors voted Thursday to separate those goals.

"This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue," Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** said. "This is an effort that can't be and shouldn't be rushed. That isn't to say that we want to go slow and kill this thing off. But we have to be deliberate."

Each study will take a year to two years and will examine how a fee structure could affect traffic flow, transit ridership and low-income commuters. No new fees would be imposed until the studies are finished, officials said.

If both proposals are approved, Metro would launch a pilot program of congestion pricing and a tax on Uber and Lyft at the same time, officials said.

Imposing more tolls would offer a smoother drive for those who choose to pay, officials say. Getting more drivers off the road could free space to speed up bus service, while the billions of dollars in revenue could fund a vast expansion of the transit network, Metro said.

Early critics of the congestion pricing proposal have said additional fees could be a burden for low-income households that spend a significant share of their monthly income on transportation.

"What's prohibitively expensive for someone of limited means is a drop in the bucket for the affluent," Eric Preven, who serves on the Studio City Neighborhood Council, said during Thursday's meeting.

But addressing concerns about low-income households does not apply only to drivers, said Los Angeles City Councilman and Metro director Paul Krekorian. Buses sit in the same traffic that private cars do, making service slower and less reliable, and inconveniencing some of L.A. County's poorest residents, he said.

"The assumption often is, when we talk about congestion pricing, that we need to be concerned about car-dependent people," Krekorian said. "The truth is, a hugely disproportionate percentage of our riders are transit dependent."

Metro's bus riders have a median household income of less than \$18,000, and four out of five passengers have no access to a car. Metro has argued that charging drivers more to use freeways and streets would free up space for buses to run faster, potentially improving their efficiency.

A modest form of congestion pricing is already in place on the 110 and 10 freeways, where drivers who are alone in their cars can pay by the mile to use carpool lanes. As traffic congestion in the lanes rises, so do the tolls — to a maximum of \$20 for a one-way trip.

To make the charges palatable to drivers, experts say any congestion pricing scheme must be coupled with frequent, reliable public transportation, so people don't feel as though they're being pushed out of their cars with no other options.

Metro has toyed with the possibility of using the revenue from a congestion fee to expand transit and further subsidize fares, making using the service much cheaper or even free. Right now, taxes cover about 80% of the system's operating costs.

The proposal to tax Uber and Lyft dismayed many Angelenos, who have become reliant on the vehicles that cost far less than in other major U.S. cities. In Los Angeles, a rider using UberX would pay \$11 or more for a 5-mile ride starting in downtown. In Manhattan in New York, the same ride costs more than twice as much.

That low price point is one reason that the ride-hailing companies, once heralded as possible partners for transit agencies, have instead become fierce competition. In some urban areas, Uber and Lyft have dramatically increased congestion, studies show.

A recent study of travel patterns in major U.S. cities found that 60% of customers would have walked, biked or taken transit — or just stayed home — if Uber and Lyft had not been available. San Francisco found that the companies create up to 26% of traffic during rush hour in the city's most congested areas.

The rise of Uber and Lyft is one of many factors contributing to L.A.'s plummeting transit ridership, which has fallen 20% in the last five years despite the billions of dollars spent on new rail lines. Ridership is at its lowest level in more than a decade, driven by a shift to driving instead of using Metro's sprawling bus and rail network.

Metro officials have said that they could smooth out gridlock during rush hour by charging a premium fee to drive at certain times of day or in certain areas. That could encourage people to shift their commute times or switch to transit or carpooling, they said.

If Metro pursues that policy, officials should work with major employers to encourage more flexible start times and telecommuting, easing pressure on workers who face long commutes and rigid work schedules, said Metro director and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

"Most people are on the road because they have to be somewhere at a specific time," Hahn said. "I'm not sure that many people have the luxury of saying, 'I'll wait an hour before I get in my car.'"

City News Service

Metro inching toward taxing cars in LA County, even if you use Uber or Lyft

The Metro Board of Directors agreed unanimously Thursday to move forward with two feasibility studies on raising the cost of either driving in a vehicle or riding in an Uber or Lyft in Los Angeles County.

Congestion pricing and levying a tax on companies like Uber and Lyft — referred to as transportation network company rides — are steps other jurisdictions have undertaken, according to Metro staff reports, which noted that Chicago levies a tax of 67 cents per ride-hailing trip, and congestion pricing has been successful in other cities, including Stockholm.

Congestion pricing is likely to get a lot of attention and be a polarizing idea because it could have a wide impact on the daily commutes of millions of residents. The pricing plan could involve a number of methods, including taxing drivers based on the number of miles they travel, or charging a fee for motorists to enter certain neighborhoods — such as creating a boundary around a central district and then charging vehicles to cross that boundary.

Congestion pricing is one method the board is considering to help fund the “28 by ’28” initiative that aims to complete 28 key road, transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Many of the projects already are scheduled to be finished by 2028, but some would need accelerated funding to make the goal.

Metro Board member and Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** said he hoped the discussions on the Olympics and congestion pricing could be kept separate.

“I speak about both of these, but I want to be clear that my private and public conversations have mirrored that these should be parallel, independent efforts, that folks think that ‘28 by ’28’ is about congestion pricing, or congestion pricing is about that,” Garcetti said. “These are distinct efforts and it’s important that our constituents understand that. They’re both too important, they’re both too difficult, they’re both too critical to collapse them together.”

Metro board member and Inglewood Mayor James Butts expressed some hesitation at the idea of a tax on ride-hailing trips, as it could impact visitor access to the large entertainment venues in his city, which includes The Forum, a new NFL stadium under construction and a proposed arena for the Los Angeles Clippers. He also said the Metro tax may pre-empt cities in the county from regulating Uber and Lyft rides.

“There may be an unintended consequence that we haven’t thought out, and I just want to put that out for the board to think and consider when we bring this back,” Butts said.

According to a Metro staff report, the ride-hailing trip tax could discourage single-use rides and, instead encourage pooled rides and mode shift to transit services, while the revenues could be “re-invested to improve the quality, reliability, safety and convenience of transit services and walking and biking access.”

For congestion pricing, a Metro staff report said that it “can be a method of dramatically improving equity, mobility, and environmental outcomes to achieve Metro’s strategic goals in the near-term, while also providing revenues for long-term capital projects.”

Also covered by: [NBC Los Angeles](#), [Telemundo](#), [Law360](#)

Curbed LA

Metro directors order congestion pricing study

By: Elijah Chiland

Metro’s Board of Directors agreed to move forward Thursday with a study on congestion pricing, which would impose fees on drivers with the aim of reducing traffic on Los Angeles roads.

The study, expected to be complete within the next two years, will evaluate different pricing methods, including a blanket per-mile charge and tolls in specific areas that would go up or down depending on traffic levels.

Metro CEO Phil Washington has suggested that new fees could be used to fund the agency’s plan to build 28 new projects by the 2028 Olympics—as well as free fares on trains and buses.

But on Thursday, Metro’s board members sought to distance the congestion pricing study from the “Twenty-eight by 28” initiative, which Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** argued could be funded through means other than fees on drivers.

“This has to be about congestion relief, not revenue,” said Garcetti, who authored a motion calling for a study of both congestion pricing and its impact on low-income drivers, as well as other residents likely to be affected by such a policy.

Though Garcetti’s motion—co-authored by Inglewood Mayor James Butts and county supervisors Hilda Solis, Sheila Kuehl, and Janice Hahn—was unanimously approved by the board, some members expressed doubts about the viability of congestion pricing in Los Angeles.

Transportation analysts argue that pricing policies dissuade drivers from using roads during peak commuting hours, allowing traffic to flow at more reasonable speeds. But Hahn questioned whether drivers would be able to avoid traveling at these times, due to inflexible work and school schedules.

She said concerns like these will have to be addressed before the board takes action on any future proposals to levy fees on drivers.

"What we're doing today is approving the feasibility study," Hahn said. "We want to see what that looks like before we move forward."

Garcetti was more optimistic about the potential of congestion pricing, but stressed that concerns about equity would need to be resolved.

"I think the time is right; I think the idea is right," he said, before adding, "we need to do this the right way."

Metro staffers will report back to the board on the status of the study in April.

LA Times

ShakeAlertLA users concerned about earthquake app's bugs, crashes and security issues

By: Rong-Gong Lin II

Los Angeles' earthquake early warning app has won buzz in recent weeks, as it's the first public app of its kind in the United States that aims to warn people seconds before shaking arrives from an earthquake.

It hasn't been truly tested yet: There has been no significant earthquake in the Los Angeles region since the app was published New Year's Eve. But lots of people are interested — ShakeAlertLA has been downloaded more than 400,000 times: 327,000 on iOS and 96,000 on Android.

But among users who commented on the app, some are concerned about privacy and crashes and expressed concerns that the app was rushed out too early.

So far, the app has received 2.5 out of 5 stars on Apple's App Store and 3.6 out of 5 stars in the Google Play Store. Some are frustrated that the app works only for users physically present in Los Angeles County.

Others have celebrated ShakeAlertLA, saying they believe earthquake warnings will save lives, giving people time to act and take cover before shaking arrives.

When he introduced the app, Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** acknowledged that it wasn't perfect and that there were still bugs in the software. The city's app, built under a contract with AT&T, gets information from a separate earthquake early warning system operated by the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS system, called ShakeAlert, is still in its early phases, and lots of testing still needs to happen.

Garcetti wanted to make good on an earlier pledge he made to get the app in the hands of Angelenos by the end of 2018. He has said it was important to get the app out there publicly sooner rather than later, even if it meant the early version of the app was less than perfect.

Here's a rundown of the complaints and flaws about the app, and the response from the city:

Q: Why does the app require the city to constantly know the location of the phone?

A: By design, the app needs to know where a user is to warn how intense the shaking will be before it arrives; for example, an earthquake that begins off the coast of Newport Beach would produce far stronger shaking in Long Beach than it would in the San Fernando Valley.

In the 1994 Northridge earthquake, a magnitude 6.7 temblor, people in Northridge felt violent shaking of intensity 9 on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale, meaning damage was severe. Anaheim got intensity 6 shaking, which would generally produce only slight damage.

Q: Does the city store the data of all app users?

A: The city receives information about a user's whereabouts and assigns the device to a broader geographical hexagon, which has about a 5-mile radius. Phones in that area will receive an alert based on that location.

The city does not keep historical records of a device's location, which are erased once a user moves outside that polygon.

Users are not asked to provide their phone number or name to use the app.

Q: Some users reported crashes soon after the app was made available in early January. What gives?

A: Early versions contained a programming error for iOS users outside Los Angeles County that caused a crash as soon as the app was opened. The flaw has been fixed.

Q: Any other problems?

A: A college student voiced some concerns with portions of test code related to ShakeAlertLA that had been posted weeks earlier.

Q: What did he find?

A: Alex Garcia, a UC San Diego senior in computer programming and native of Whittier, found some password information that accompanied portions of test code erroneously uploaded to GitHub and made public. GitHub is an online repository where computer programs are stored, and users of the site are invited to review code and provide feedback to find bugs and offer authors advice.

Q: Was it problematic?

A: There were a couple of accidental disclosures when the test code was erroneously uploaded and published.

First, a password was published that provided internal access to USGS notifications about an earthquake's occurrence and location. The USGS was alerted, and the compromised account was suspended.

Another problem was the disclosure of a password that offered access to a city test server that showed the whereabouts of roughly 120,000 imaginary devices conjured up by programmers for a test.

No user data was compromised, but there was an acknowledgement that human errors were made, and officials are making efforts to avoid mistaken releases of passwords.

Q: What was the USGS' reaction to the city's mistake?

USGS scientist Robert de Groot said in a statement that the compromised account was a "read-only" account, meaning the city could only read the alerts pushed out from a USGS server but not create false data or maliciously send out a fake earthquake warning through the federal government's system.

The USGS system "employs the highest security standards, including secure public-facing servers and encrypted data streams," De Groot said. "The USGS provides ongoing guidance to optimize the performance of ShakeAlert delivery products that are developed by others, like mass-alerting mobile apps. However, it is the responsibility of the partner to develop and maintain those products."

Q: Does the ShakeAlertLA app offer an estimate of how many seconds will elapse before shaking arrives?

A: Not in its current version. There's concern that shaking could arrive earlier or later than the computer's estimate. Given the uncertainty, the countdown feature is not now available.

Q: How many people have deleted the app after downloading it?

A: Of the 96,000 times the app has been downloaded on the Android system, it has been deleted from 15,000 devices. (Similar data for iOS devices aren't available.) That means the deletion rate is about 16%. The overall deletion rate for an app after 30 days is 28%, according to AppsFlyer, a San Francisco mobile marketing company.

Q: Why does the app only work inside Los Angeles County?

A: ShakeAlertLA was created by the city to ensure that City Hall, not just private companies, could control how earthquake warnings are distributed to the public. It was funded with \$43,000 from a nonprofit established by Garcetti, called the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles, and \$260,000 from the nonprofit Annenberg Foundation. So its ambitions were set early on to focus on the L.A. area.

Q: Will apps be made available for other parts of California?

A: It'll just be a matter of time. A private company, Santa Monica-based Early Warning Labs, has its own QuakeAlert app in development, and plans to soon offer it to 100,000 test users, who may include people outside of L.A. County.

Other officials have sought more information about Los Angeles' app, including authorities in Orange, San Diego and Ventura counties; San Francisco; Seattle; the state of Washington; the water and electricity utility of Eugene, Ore.; and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Q: Why not make the app available to everyone?

A: Adding too many people to receive alerts could suddenly slow down the delivery of the messages, and it's important for researchers to identify problems and fix them.

Q: Why not make the app available to all cellphone users through Amber Alert-style text messages?

A: State officials will soon conduct a test to see whether Amber Alert-style text messages are quick enough to be useful for earthquake early warnings.

A test warning is scheduled to be sent March 27 by text message to Oakland's Lakeside neighborhood, which has a daytime population of 40,000 people and includes government employees.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services will be asking those in the area to fill out a survey on exactly when they receive the alert. They'll be asked to look at a precise clock on a computer screen while they wait for the text message. If the test shows it might be useful for some users, state officials might explore sending quake warnings through text messages.

It has long been thought that the current U.S. cellphone network is probably too slow to make earthquake warnings useful through text message. A recent National Wireless Emergency Alert System test showed that the average delay in users receiving a text message was about 22 seconds. A rollout of fifth-generation, or 5G, cellular technology could help, but that could take years.

Q: What's the current delay between the time an alert is issued and when it arrives on a cellphone?

A: In simulations, there's a delay of fewer than two seconds between the time an alert is issued and when it arrives on a ShakeAlertLA-equipped cellphone.

Q: The mayor said ShakeAlertLA's computer programming code will be "open source," meaning the code will be made public for other cities to use and for other programmers to scour for bugs and suggest improvements. It's not public right now. Will it be?

A: Yes, there are plans for the city to release that. Before that's done, AT&T and the city will have cybersecurity teams do an extra check to ensure they don't mistakenly release private information.

Q: There's a page on the app that says, "View recent earthquakes," but nothing shows up. Is it working?

A: The interface is a bit confusing right now — the key suggests that there would be a list of earthquakes of all magnitudes, but the system right now is set up to only list earthquakes of at least magnitude 5 in the Greater L.A. region. None have occurred since New Year's Eve.

A future version of the app will show earthquakes of magnitude 3 or greater in the United States for either the previous 30 days or the last 300 seismic events exceeding that threshold.

Q: Why does the map on viewing recent earthquakes sometimes default to a view focusing on Western Europe instead of L.A.?

A: The glitch should be resolved in a future version.

Q: When I click on "earthquake alert map," all I see is my location.

A: The display is a bit confusing when there's no active earthquake alert. The city is working on making the interface clearer, which would offer users an example of what an alert would look like.

Q: Why is the "find a shelter" page blank?

A: The city isn't pre-publishing shelter sites, as they will depend on the earthquake. Shaking more tightly focused on the San Fernando Valley, for instance, may not require shelters to open in San Pedro.

LAist

The Amount Of Snow Near Tahoe Could Be Good News For SoCal's Water Supply

By: Jessica Ogilvie

The snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountain range is up to a heartening 153 percent of average, according to a report by California's Department of Water Resources. In a measurement taken today, there were 113 inches of snow depth near Seirra-at-Tahoe.

The measurement provides valuable insight into water resources in the state — Southern California gets approximately one-third of its water from the Sierra Nevadas. It's also a marked improvement from this time last year, when snow levels came in at around 13.5 inches, or 27 percent of the average following years of draught.

Water from the Sierra Nevadas is collected in SoCal after the flow from melted snow is channeled south on the 200-mile Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Sometimes that flow can pose a risk to homes, roads, or the aqueduct itself. When the snowpack clocked in at 174 percent of normal in February of 2017, L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti** responded by declaring an emergency over concerns about flooding and debris.

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Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: Clips <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 6:55 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

UNIVISION: Alcalde de Los Ángeles promociona la ciudad para atraer el turismo mexicano (VIDEO ONLY)
POLITICO: 'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight
LA TIMES: Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum
LA TIMES: Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing
MERCURY NEWS: Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president
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JEWISH JOURNAL: Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism

Politico

'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight

By: Jeremy B. White

OAKLAND — The next big political fight over data privacy may center on an unlikely piece of technology: The scooters currently flying around streets and scattered on sidewalks in cities across the country.

And as always, it's brewing first in California, the state that last year enacted a landmark consumer privacy law that's roiling Silicon Valley and Washington policymakers.

In Los Angeles, a dispute over how the city manages data embedded in Uber-operated scooters has emerged as a leading-edge privacy issue, foreshadowing a debate over the government's role in managing sensitive data in a new era of connected transit.

City officials want granular location information on thousands of dockless scooters that are proliferating in the sprawling southern California metropolis. They say it's critical to know what's happening in their streets and ensure people are being served equitably.

But Uber's dockless vehicle company, JUMP, is pushing back, arguing that the scale of data Los Angeles wants poses a menace to personal privacy.

In a letter to Los Angeles Department of Transportation manager Seleta Reynolds, the company warned of "an unprecedented level of surveillance, oversight, and control that LADOT would wield over private companies and individual citizens." (Reynolds responded that those concerns were "uninformed, and therefore, falsely characterize" the situation.)

The clash opens another chapter in a long-running conflict between cities and mobility companies, like Uber, that previously sought to aggressively expand before getting official approval. Uber and Lyft have for years sparred with cities over access to what the companies consider valuable proprietary information.

Skeptics of Uber's motives note that companies already collect huge amounts of personal data, and not always with positive results: Uber reached a \$148 million settlement with California earlier this year over a massive breach of consumer information.

But Uber's letter hits on a larger concern about government's expanding role in tracking how people move around. Privacy advocates say that location data is especially sensitive given that it can reveal a person's movements and private transactions — all the more so given that dockless vehicles can take a person directly to or from their home or business.

"I think it's the big privacy issue of the next few years," said Joseph Jerome, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology's data and privacy project. "This sort of combination of private data in public hands is going to be a bigger and bigger issue, and when it's geolocation there are some particular questions."

Former Los Angeles Assemblyman Mike Gatto, who oversaw a nascent committee devoted to privacy, recounted Department of Motor Vehicles officials talking about persistent hacking attempts and police officers improperly accessing

state databases.

Gatto warned that when government agencies create public databases, “law enforcement has the ability to access it, and they will.”

A LADOT spokesperson said the agency would share data with the Los Angeles Police Department only when presented with a warrant; the spokesperson did not answer questions about whether information can be revealed in a lawsuit or what restrictions LA imposes on sharing between city agencies.

The debate comes as cities contend with an explosion of scooters: pending applications would put roughly 40,000 more on LA’s roads, according to LADOT chief sustainability officer Marcel Porras.

“We were looking to respond quickly to a new mobility that kind of landed on our streets without permission,” he said.

Porras said it’s critical for the city to have a clear view of a rapidly growing means of transit so they can stay on top of the swiftly changing situation on the ground and see if scooters end up “in the LA River.”

City officials also want that data so they can ensure companies are abiding by promises to make the technology available to lower-income residents “in areas of the city where these types of private sector investments may not normally go to first,” Porras said.

“We’re telling companies that if they want to expand their fleet, you have to put more of these units in disadvantaged communities,” Porras said.

Porras said city officials rigorously examined privacy implications and ultimately decided to classify the location information as confidential, meaning it’s not subject to public records requests. He noted that the information LA is collecting does not include personal identifiers.

“We are collecting vehicle information, not information on riders,” he said.

Los Angeles is widely seen as ahead of the curve on data practices. A representative for **Mayor Eric Garcetti** stressed that record and said the city strives to keep residents informed “as new technologies emerge.”

“Scooter location is tracked in a transparent way that protects user privacy, and the city has a strong track record of improving systems through data while being sensitive to privacy concerns,” spokeswoman Anna Bahr said in a release.

Such assurances, however, have met with skepticism from people who have observed the perils of how government agencies manage data.

“The data’s only as good as its weakest link,” Gatto said. “I do believe this is one of those issues that is at the tipping point,” he added, noting “this gut feeling we all have which is ‘this is creepy — why is government tracking every single move and storing the data?’”

The debate is unfurling as the state wrestles over the scope of the California Consumer Privacy Act, which which emerged last year amid growing concerns about Big Tech’s intrusiveness.

While Los Angeles says the law does not apply to data schema managed by government, the parallel developments demonstrate how data privacy is becoming a paramount consideration for policymakers — particularly the large and growing pool of information on where people are going in a world of increasingly sophisticated and connected transit.

“If you know where people work and pray and play you know a whole lot about them,” Jerome said. “Our concern is [Los Angeles] is asking for a whole lot of data — more frequent and rigorous real-time data than companies collect and provide at the moment.”

The issue isn’t restricted to Los Angeles. In her capacity as an official in the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Reynolds has been sharing LA’s data collection method as a possible model for other cities — an effort that transit experts said was gaining traction far beyond California.

She was among the NACTO officials last year touting a project called Shared Streets that lets private companies and public agencies share transit data. A NACTO representative declined to speak on the record, but the Shared Streets website has a section devoted to assuring that “incredibly sensitive” data would be anonymized.

Last December, a collection of chief data officers of American cities signed an open letter heralding the launch of dockless vehicles and arguing that cities getting their raw data was “essential for internal urban planning.” They argued for “block-level aggregation” that would safeguard privacy and against sharing individual routes.

Hanging over the scooter debate is an intensifying race by major tech and auto companies to deploy autonomous vehicles at scale. Driverless cars traveled more than two million miles on California's public roads last year, according to the DMV, a fourfold increase from the prior year.

Those vehicles generate enormous amounts of data. As California and the federal government work to shape the rules that should govern their use, transportation experts said LA's foray into managing transportation data could offer a glimpse of what's to come.

"Scooters are sort of a test case for how transit agencies are going to manage data as you deploy more technology," Jerome said.

In LA, a city that's long been emblematic of personal car culture, city officials are bracing for seismic changes brought on by the confluence of shared ridership, autonomous vehicle technology and big data. A LADOT plan repeatedly underscores how the city will need to assert its authority.

"Control is a fundamental aspect of today's transportation network and will become even more critical in the future," the plan says, which will mean launching a "technology platform that enables our Department to actively manage the transportation network in ways we previously have not."

The report describes the implications in strikingly evocative terms, predicting that the "technical, political, and structural aspects of this change are momentous, but so is the human emotional one."

The word "privacy" does not appear in the document.

LA Times

Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

By: Howard Blume

Last year, the power of the local teachers union seemed to be on the wane while charter schools' prospects were rising. Los Angeles Board of Education members backed by charter supporters were in control, and they'd pushed through a new superintendent whose background had nothing to do with education.

On Tuesday, voters showed how quickly things can change.

Jackie Goldberg, the union-backed candidate, easily outpaced nine others on the ballot in a special election that could shift the balance on the school board — thanks in large part to public support cultivated during a six-day teachers' strike in January.

The 74-year-old veteran public official didn't quite get the majority needed to win the District 5 seat outright, but she claimed 48% of the vote, making her the strong favorite in a May 14 runoff against a second-place finisher who trailed her by 35 percentage points.

Goldberg, who served on the board for two terms until 1991, proclaimed herself part of a larger movement to bring more resources to education — and also to rein in charter schools.

"This is the beginning and not the end of putting together all those people who came together around the teachers' strike — not just here but in Oakland and the folks in Madera and the folks in Fresno that are all trying to make these things happen," Goldberg said. "People moved to California when I was young for our schools. And since then we have starved them, and we cannot continue starving them. This movement is about that."

It's not yet clear who Goldberg will face in the runoff, but it will either be Graciela Ortiz or Heather Repenning, who at last count were separated by 53 votes. Neither would be a clear-cut option for charter supporters. The candidate with the strongest pro-charter position, Allison Bajracharya, finished fifth.

Ortiz is a school counselor and a member of the Huntington Park City Council. Repenning is a former public works commissioner and longtime senior aide to L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**. Their order of finish will be settled by mail-in and provisional ballots. The vote count can continue as late as March 19.

A timely candidate

Goldberg's success was partly due to her own brand: She served on the school board, on the L.A. City Council and in the state Legislature; she's well-known and well-regarded by many.

But her success also was built on teacher activism, including last year's strikes in other states and this year's walkouts in

Los Angeles and Oakland. Union leaders in L.A. followed up their January strike by immediately launching a campaign that spent about \$660,000 on Goldberg's behalf. She also raised about \$200,000 for her own campaign — and she noted Tuesday night that she'd benefited from 1,300 small contributions and 800 volunteers.

Her activism goes way back to the UC Berkeley free speech movement of the mid-1960s — an era, she noted, in which students paid no tuition for their higher education. The state, she said, needs to find its way back to a deeper investment in its children.

Charter schools, too, would benefit from increased education funding, but charter advocates strongly — although quietly — opposed Goldberg. They worry about her calls for limiting the number of new charters and imposing more stringent regulations on them. (Both would require changes to state law.)

Goldberg aligns with those who say that privately operated charters — which compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that goes with them — are undermining public education. Charter backers counter that their schools have provided healthy competition and high-quality choices for families. About 1 in 5 local public school students now attend a charter — and wealthy pro-charter donors want further charter expansion.

Anti-charter themes were a regular refrain of striking teachers, and they seemed to strike a chord with people who may not previously have been familiar with the arguments.

A survey of L.A. Unified School District residents during and just after the strike found that about 3 in 4 said the focus should be on improving existing public schools rather than on alternatives such as charter schools, said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

Although the charter lobby remains powerful, it also suffered a setback at the state level last year, when it ran campaigns on behalf of candidates who lost the races for governor and the state superintendent of public instruction. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom — who has signaled his openness to more regulation of charter school — signed legislation that would compel charters to follow laws on public records and public meetings.

Money matters

Tuesday's outcome also marked a new direction in another way. In several previous elections, pro-charter funders outspent everyone — to good effect. In 2017, candidates they backed claimed their first-ever L.A. school board majority. And a charter school founder, Ref Rodriguez, became president of the board.

Rodriguez represented District 5 — the region on Tuesday's ballot, which takes in neighborhoods north of downtown and then cuts a narrow path east of downtown to the cities of southeast L.A. County. He was supposed to serve through 2020.

Two months after Rodriguez became board president, however, prosecutors charged him with political money laundering. He stepped down as president but remained on the board for nearly a year, just long enough to cast a crucial vote for hiring businessman Austin Beutner as superintendent.

Goldberg said she would have voted to hire an educator rather than Beutner, but she also said she would try to work with the superintendent.

Rodriguez resigned in July after pleading guilty to one felony and three misdemeanors. His crimes, his delay in leaving office and his willingness to cast important swing votes during that time did not sit well with some parents and voters.

For this week's primary, charter backers were never able to coalesce around an opponent to Goldberg. Bajracharya, an executive at a charter organization, had substantial support from charter allies but not the overwhelming sums provided by mega-donors in recent elections.

Four candidates raised enough money to get their message out: Goldberg, Bajracharya, Ortiz and Repenning. And each also had donors who funded independent campaigns on their behalf. The teachers union's spending on Goldberg was a relative bargain compared to what it spent in recent races — often in a losing cause.

But the biggest spender in the primary was Local 99 of Services Employees International Union, which represents most nonteaching district employees. It put nearly \$1 million into a campaign to elect Repenning, who also had the endorsement of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Part of Local 99's money paid for a misleading campaign against Goldberg, describing her as a career politician who is "always looking out for #1" and who favored prisons over schools, slashed education spending and presided over a failing school system.

Even if their campaign helped force a runoff, Repenning finished so far back that Local 99 now must ponder how much it

wants to continue fighting Goldberg, with whom the union previously has gotten along.

Many observers assumed that the pro-charter funders — organized under the group California Charter Schools Assn. Advocates — were simply holding their fire till the runoff. Goldberg's strong showing could affect that calculus.

A spokesman for CCSA Advocates declined to comment Wednesday.

Also covered by: [LA Magazine](#), [LA Daily News](#), [Eastsider LA](#)

LA Times

Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

To the editor: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to explore congestion pricing. This is a bad idea.

We cannot tax our way out of traffic any more than we can reduce the number of residents in and around Los Angeles, nor can most people change where they live or where they must travel to work.

Encouraging housing development along the various Metro routes is an option, but ultimately, we will never be able to overcome the challenges presented by the spread-out geography of greater Los Angeles.

If Los Angeles and other nearby cities really want to see traffic move more quickly, they should put significantly more effort and money into repairing our streets, which are in a shameful and dare I say dangerous state of disrepair.

Joe Grauman, Los Angeles

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To the editor: A single word appearing in the article explains everything. The word is "choice," and it implies that working people will make an informed decision about whether or not to pay an additional tax to get to work.

The only real choice would be to pay the tax or pay one's rent. The effect of congestion pricing will be to remove working poor people from the highway so the wealthy can relax.

If the Red Line subway went from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and all other rail lines were complete, there might be a bit of fairness to this proposal. But in this form, it is merely insulting.

Jon Hartmann, Los Angeles

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To the editor: Metro wants to study a proposal to tax motorists and ride-share operators to the tune of \$580 million over a decade. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is quoted as saying, "This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue."

If that is true, then the Metro board members should read the L.A. Times' March 4 op-ed article, "We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence." They would learn the city of Hangzhou used artificial intelligence to decrease road congestion.

It's a shame there isn't this kind of intelligence, artificial or otherwise, at Metro.

Tom Keiser, Pasadena

Mercury News

Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

By: Casey Tolan

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo backed Sen. Kamala Harris for president Thursday, lending his support to a fellow former Bay Area prosecutor as her campaign rolled out endorsements from a slate of California mayors.

"Senator Harris stands head and shoulders above the current field in the ability to articulate a vision that can move America forward and a willingness to say what needs to be said," Liccardo told the Bay Area News Group in an interview. "She's been a great champion for California and for our values."

In Harris' latest move to consolidate home state support, she also announced endorsements from Mayors London Breed of San Francisco, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Robert Garcia of Long Beach and Aja Brown of Compton.

Harris' campaigns for office "paved the way for me and many women who have sought elected office in this state," Breed

said in a statement. "She is acutely aware of the work that needs to be done on behalf of this nation and is prepared to lead and lift up hard-working men and women across this nation."

The former state attorney general and San Francisco district attorney, Harris has already won the backing of elected officials up and down the California ballot, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, five members of Congress and a host of other state officers and legislators. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf also endorsed Harris at her campaign kick-off rally earlier this year.

The Golden State is expected to play an unusually important role this year due to its early spot on the calendar and its major delegate haul. Californians will go to the polls on March 3, just after the four traditional early states and on the same day as a more than a half-dozen other states including Texas, North Carolina and Virginia.

As of Thursday, Harris has the support of all the Democratic leaders of California's nine biggest cities except for **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, who publicly mused about a presidential bid before deciding not to run in January. He hasn't made a choice in the race.

The latest endorsements for Harris aren't exactly a surprise. Breed, who called the senator her "Bay Area sister," hosted a friendly San Francisco event for Harris' book tour earlier this year and attended her Oakland rally.

Liccardo, a former Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, said he was impressed by Harris' work with him and other mayors on under-the-radar issues like improving emergency warning systems. Harris will be the best candidate to balance progressive policies with appeals to moderate voters, he argued: "If this is just a contest to see who can race faster to the left, the Democratic Party will be headed for defeat in 2020."

Harris might not be the only Californian in the race for the White House: East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell is also considering a run, and spent this past weekend meeting activists across northeast Iowa, his 17th trip to the state since the beginning of 2017.

San Fernando Valley Business Journal **VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport** By: Mark Madler

The Aviation Committee of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association received an update Wednesday on efforts to allow public events in aircraft hangars at Van Nuys Airport.

Max Reyes, an economic policy manager in **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office, told the committee that the mayor's office has been working with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles World Airports, representatives from Councilwoman Nury Martinez's office and the Van Nuys Airport Association on the issue.

"We feel there has been progress," said Flora Margheritis, general manager of Van Nuys Airport.

Right now, a point of contention is about whether the large hangar doors will be considered emergency exits, Reyes said.

The issue of public events at the San Fernando Valley airfield came to the attention of airport tenants and VICA in December at a meeting of the airport association. Tenants were told of a city of Los Angeles administrative ruling that prohibits public events in hangars at Van Nuys Airport and warehouses across the city and that the Building and Safety Department would begin to enforce it.

A report is expected in the next week or two from the department and a proposed ordinance sponsored by Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee on March 19, Reyes said.

The proposed ordinance, introduced in December, instructs the L.A. Fire Department and Building and Safety Department to recommend a system to permit events at hangars.

"There is a pathway there and we are working on that," said Curt Castagna, who serves as president of the Van Nuys Airport Association

VICA has become involved with the issue as its executive committee in December passed a resolution in opposition to the event ban and calling for deferring implementation of the ban at Van Nuys and Los Angeles International airports for 180 days; creating standards for review and a permitting process; and making a clear distinction between hangars and warehouses.

Jewish Journal **Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism** By: Ryan Torok and Aaron Bandler

A mural in downtown Los Angeles depicting the Grim Reaper wrapped inside an American flag emblazoned with Jewish stars, gripping a baby, cradling a missile and surrounded by snakes, has been deemed anti-Semitic by several civic leaders and organizations, including Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office.

"This mural is a shameful act of anti-Semitism," Alex Comisar, a spokesman for Garcetti, said in a statement. "Imagery like this should have no place in our city."

The image, on the exterior wall of The Vortex, a performance and event space in an industrial downtown neighborhood, was first painted in 2011 by local artist Vyal Reyes as part of an art show titled, "LA vs. WAR." In 2018, Reyes said on his Instagram page that the work was inspired by a trip he took "to Palestine some years back."

However, the controversy didn't erupt until Feb. 25, when Zhenya Rozinskiy of boutique consulting firm Mirigos shared a photograph of the mural on his Facebook page and it went viral.

Among those condemning the mural was Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party. The group posted a picture of the mural on its Facebook page and tagged the Vortex, stating: "Hey The Vortex, Is this a real thing on your building? If yes, why? It's wildly anti-Semitic. If not, you should probably clear up the confusion. Signed, Some confused and concerned community members."

But in an email to the Journal, Reyes said he isn't anti-Semitic and that he intended the mural to be "critical of the U.S. and its increasing focus on war."

"That particular neighborhood that the mural was painted in was in worse shape at the time and homeless people lived all around there," Reyes said. "It seemed to me at the time that the U.S. was more into funding war than helping its homeless. Even at that time, the U.S. was funding massive amounts of money to Israel, as they still are. That's not anti-Semitic; that's just a fact."

Jeff Norman, a representative of the Vortex, also defended Reyes. "The Vortex stands for free expression," Norman said in an email to the Journal. "The artist whose mural includes the Star of David (created for the LA vs. WAR show to acknowledge 9/11 about 5-6 years ago) did not intend to express an anti-Semitic message. We believe his intent deserves considerable weight. We invite those who feel otherwise to paint another mural next to it. We are also open to hosting a public discussion about this controversy at The Vortex."

But on the night of Feb. 25 or the morning of Feb. 26, the words "No place for hate" were painted over the mural. While it's unclear who was responsible for defacing the mural, the artists' rights organization Artists 4 Israel sent a photograph of the defaced mural to their email list subscribers on Feb. 26.

When asked if his group was responsible for painting over the mural, Artists 4 Israel CEO Craig Dershowitz told the Journal that he did not have any comment, although he conceded that he was troubled by the mural's imagery.

As of press time, The Vortex had not made any effort to repair the mural or to notify the police about the defacement, Norman said.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League has called for the mural's removal.

"For a venue that purports to welcome the community, The Vortex should join us in condemning hateful imagery that invokes anti-Semitic canards conflating Jews with death, snakes, bombs and killing babies," the organization said in a statement.

--



Cate Hurley | Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)

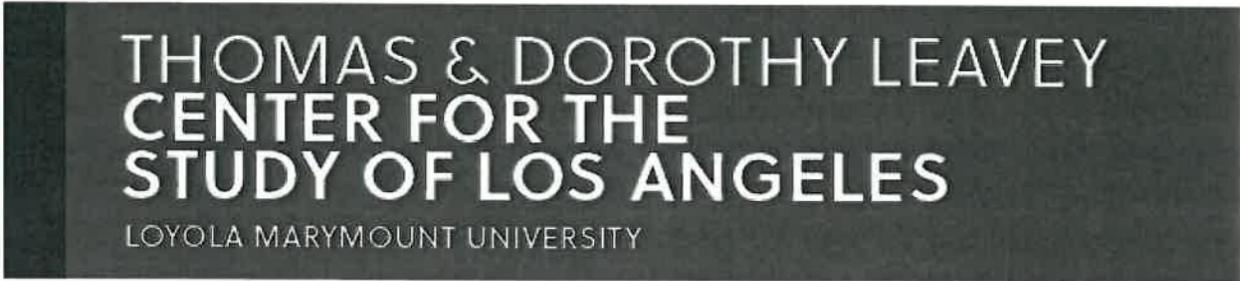
Thank you for another successful Forecast LA Conference!

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 4:48 PM



THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY
CENTER FOR THE
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***Thanks to all of you who joined us this
year at the 2019 Forecast LA.***



**For the first time, we moved our event downtown and were met with an
overwhelming welcome. We had our largest conference to date with over 400**

registrants, many of whom attended for the first time. As we would be remiss to not include some fact of public opinion: 99% of conference attendees said they were satisfied with their experience at the event overall!

Click [here](#) for pics of this year's conference. (Additional pictures will be uploaded soon.)

Click [here](#) for conference publication and presentations.

Thanks to all our speakers and panelists who contributed to the event!

Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez,

Archbishop, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Hon. Alex Villanueva,

Sheriff, Los Angeles County

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas,

Supervisor - 2nd District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Maria S. Salinas,

President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Jessica Lall,

President & CEO, Central City Association

Mary Leslie,

President, Los Angeles Business Council

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Chancellor, Loyola Marymount University

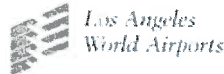
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Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU

Brianne Gilbert,

Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU

StudyLA would like to thank the following partners for their support



Thank You

We hope you can make it to Forecast LA 2020 next April!

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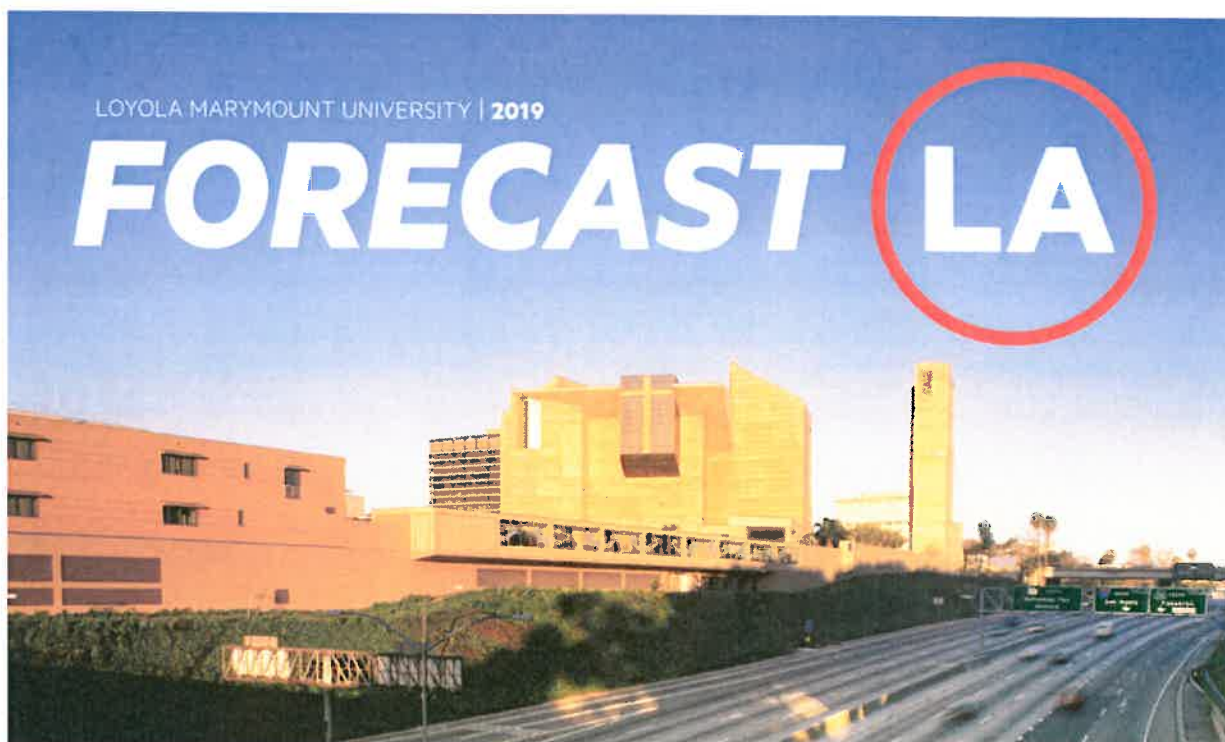
This Week: LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - Wednesday, April 10

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 2:02 PM

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

The Center at Cathedral Plaza

555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Free, easy on-site parking

Follow this link for online registration (open until 3pm, Tuesday 4/9):

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

Use code "STUDYLA2019" for your complimentary registration.

(On-site registration also available morning of the event.)

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Next Week: LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - Wednesday, April 10

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Wed, Apr 3, 2019 at 4:02 PM

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

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LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

*Forecast LA is next Wednesday - don't miss your
chance to learn what LA County residents think at
the 6th annual conference.*



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

The Center at Cathedral Plaza

555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

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Fernando J. Guerra,

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Brianne Gilbert,

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LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference, Wednesday, April 10

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

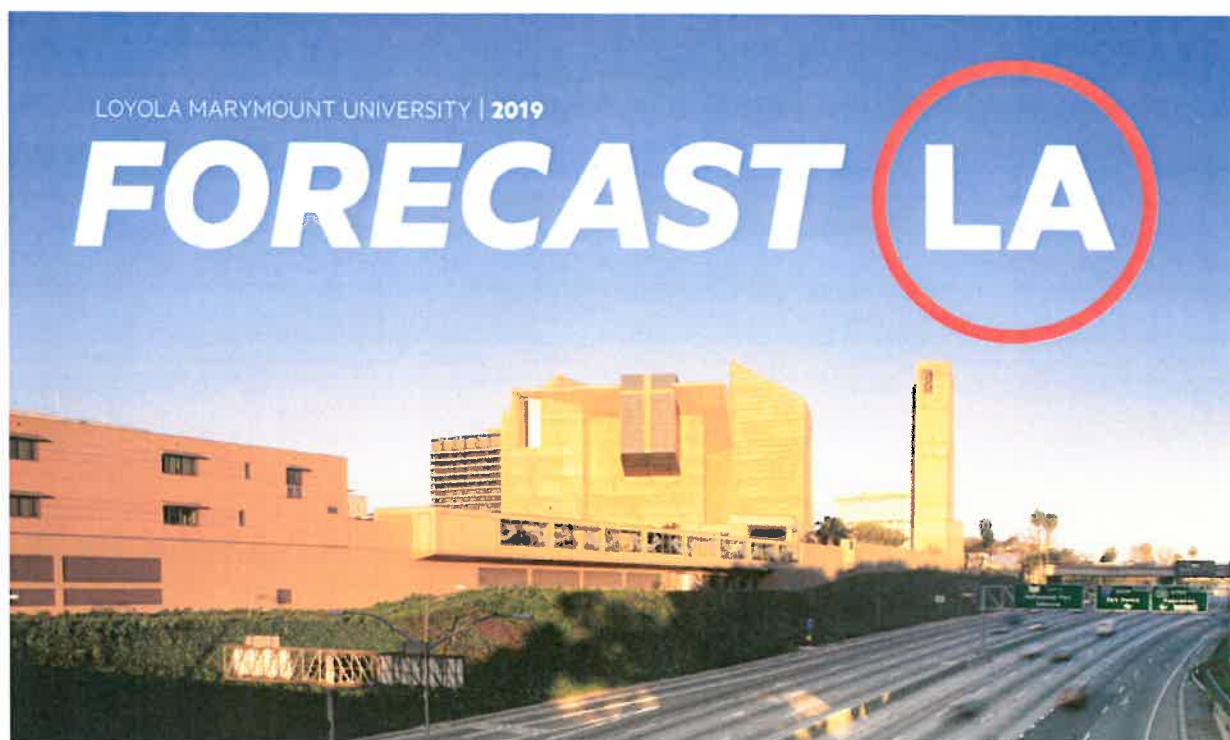
To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Wed, Mar 27, 2019 at 3:10 PM

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

*Two weeks until the
6th Annual Forecast LA Conference
in Downtown Los Angeles!*



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

The Center at Cathedral Plaza
555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Free, easy on-site parking

Don't forget to register at:

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Still time to support us today! LMU Day of Giving 2019 & Forecast LA

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM



Support StudyLA in #OneLMUDrive – TODAY!

This semester, three of our student researchers – Jayna Ortiz '19, Alden Lundy '20, and John Andrikos '21 – have been invited to present original research findings at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. Thanks to the generous contributions of donors like you, StudyLA is able to fully fund all three students.

Jayna shares, *"Over the past three years, StudyLA has given me research skills, professional development tools, the opportunity to travel, and a newfound appreciation for civic engagement. Now, as I get ready to leave the Bluff, I am empowered to have a meaningful career that will create*

a positive impact in my community."

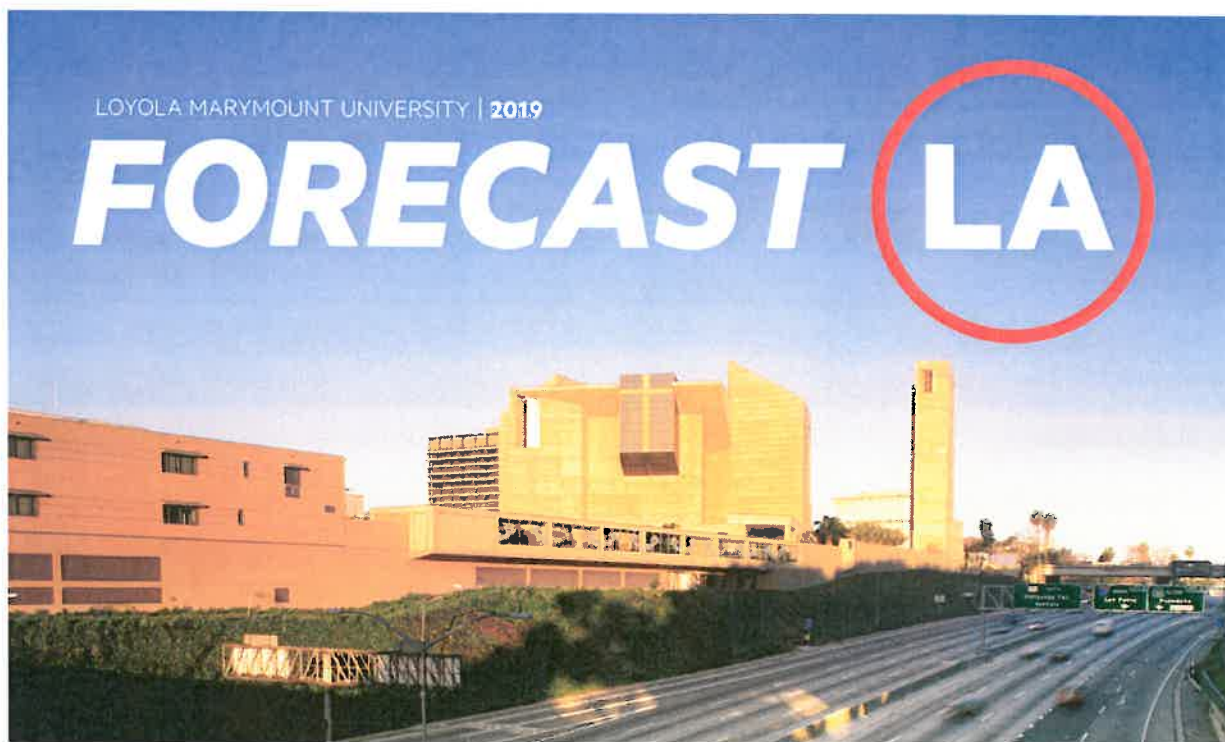
Today, we need your support for ongoing student-oriented programs such as the LA Votes exit polls and polling place quality studies, Sacramento Seminar, and the Los Angeles/Mexico City comparative trip.

Give to our #OneLMUDrive and make a gift to the Center for the Study of Los Angeles before 11:59pm TONIGHT. You can donate today by clicking the button below.

Thank you for your support!

[Click here to select Center for the Study of Los Angeles](#)

Be sure to rsvp for Forecast LA, this year in downtown LA!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

Downtown LA: The Center at Cathedral Plaza
[555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Free and easy, on-site parking

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

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LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 11:01 AM

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org



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Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

LMU Day of Giving 2019 & StudyLA

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Fri, Mar 15, 2019 at 1:20 PM

A dark grey rectangular banner with white text. The text reads "THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, is "LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY".

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

LMU DAY OF GIVING 2019



This year, the Center for the Study of Los Angeles has been selected by the Provost, Thomas Poon, as one of his key initiatives for LMU Day of Giving. Your support on March 19, will help push our program forward in providing opportunities to celebrate LMU students and help them succeed.

Learn more at dayofgiving.lmu.edu

In the meantime, don't forget to register for our 2019 Forecast LA conference.

This year in Downtown LA!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

Downtown LA: The Center at Cathedral Plaza

555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Free and easy, on-site parking

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LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - April 10

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

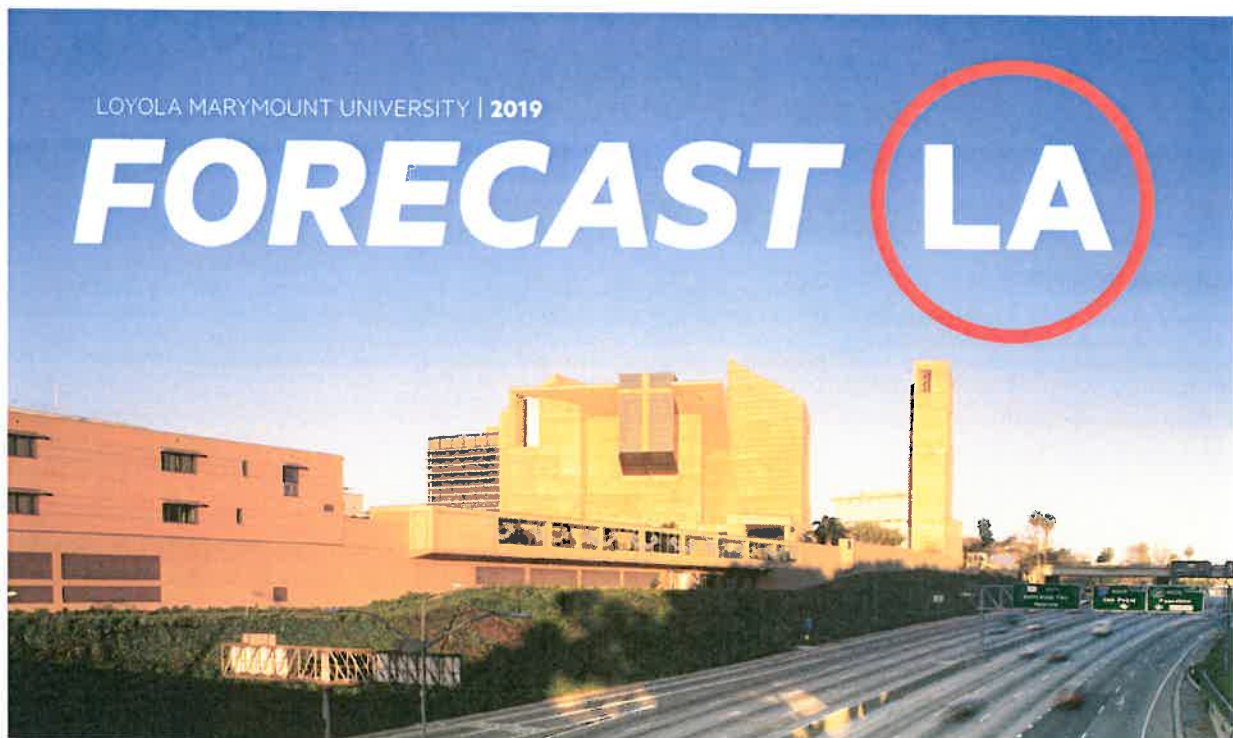
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 4:25 PM

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*Join us for our
6th Annual Forecast LA Conference
in Downtown Los Angeles!*



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

Downtown LA: The Central at Cathedral Plaza

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Easy, on-site, free parking

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SAVE THE DATE: LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - April 10

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Thu, Feb 7, 2019 at 10:52 AM

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

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LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

DOWNTOWN LA: THE CENTER AT CATHEDRAL PLAZA

NETWORKING BREAKFAST: 8AM-9AM

PROGRAM: 9AM-11:30AM

Forecast LA is an annual conference that examines the opinions of residents and leaders in Los Angeles about the future of the region.

This event, with sold-out attendance year-to-year, has been instrumental to civic, business, and community leaders alike, giving them valuable perspective on how our region thinks and feels, right now.

In its 6th year, we are moving the conference to a larger space in the heart of the city: The Center at Cathedral Plaza in Downtown LA.

We hope you will join us.

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

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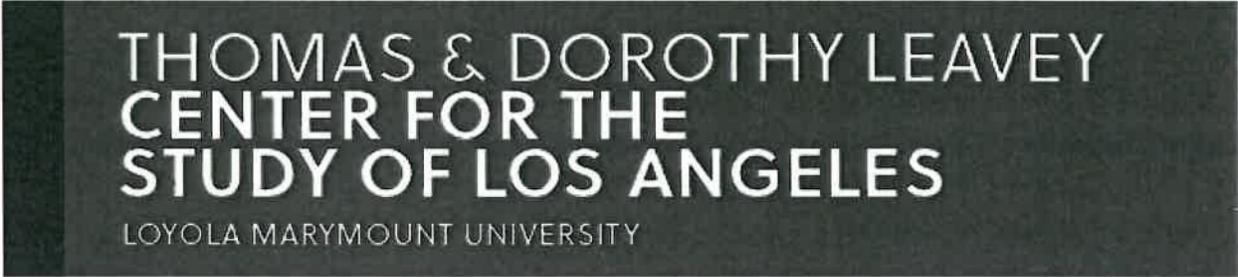


Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

StudyLA coverage on LAUSD strike

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:35 AM



THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY
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STUDY OF LOS ANGELES
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Yesterday, StudyLA released the first results from its 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

The survey found that nearly 80 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they support LAUSD teachers who have chosen to go on strike during a contract battle with district leadership.

LAUSD Strike Report in the News

So far, the story has been covered by the [LA Times](#), [The New York Times](#), [KPCC 89.3](#), [KCRW 89.9](#), [KABC 790](#), [KTLA-5](#), [Reuters](#), [LA Taco](#), [LA School Report](#), [American School & University Magazine](#), and [LA Daily News](#).

The LA Times story highlighting the survey results was featured on the front page of today's print edition.



COUNSELOR SANDRA Santacruz-Cervantes, center, joins picketers outside Hollywood High on the second day of L.A.'s teachers' strike. ONIA FERRAZ/LOS ANGELES TIMES

SHERIFF REHIRES DEPUTY ACCUSED OF ABUSE

Department fired man over stalking allegations, but he later worked for Villanueva campaign.

BY MAYA LAU

Caren Carl Mandoyan played a special role last month at the swearing-in of Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, standing on stage and holding the box of gold pins that would adorn the collar of the top cop and his senior executives.

Mandoyan served as a trusted member of Villanueva's campaign team, acting as his driver and rallying rank-and-file deputies to lobby their union to endorse his long-shot candidacy.

But Mandoyan didn't have the typical resume of a campaign worker. He served as a deputy for 10 years until he was fired in 2008 by then-Sheriff Jim McDonnell in connection with allegations of domestic abuse and stalking. A county appeals board heard evidence and upheld the dismissal.

Despite this, Villanueva decided to reinstate Mandoyan as a deputy in the Sheriff's Department.

Teachers bask in support for strike

But as walkout marches on at a cost of millions a day, there's pressure for each side to settle

BY HOWARD BLUME AND DOUG SMITH

largest school district and its students. But as the strike enters its third day—with a fourth



[LA teachers back in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses](#)

by Howard Blume and Doug Smith

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they sided with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavay Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University. The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The press release can be found [here](#).

Live updates on media coverage can be found [here](#).

Report Highlights: Resident Support

- Over 80 percent in union households and 70 percent in non-union households
- Over 80 percent with children living in household, 70 percent with no children living in household
- Over 90 percent of Blacks and 80 percent of Latina/os

- Over 80 percent between the ages of 18 and 44
- Over 80 percent lower class, 70 percent middle class, and 60 percent of upper class
- Over 80 percent liberals, 70 percent moderates, and 60 percent of conservatives

Data visualizations can be found on social media [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

The results reflect the opinions of the 425 residents who were surveyed prior to the start of the LAUSD strike starting on Monday, January 14, 2019. The survey will continue to run throughout the month of January and the first two weeks of February. The question wording has been changed to reflect the reality of the strike.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said. "But for now, it's clear that L.A. stands with its striking teachers."

The full report can be found [here](#).

Forecast LA

The annual Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey is the largest general social survey of any metropolitan area in urban America. Residents are asked about quality-of-life perceptions, economic concerns, personal financial well-being, overall life satisfaction, and various timely civic issues. The results are released at Forecast LA, StudyLA's annual conference now entering its sixth year.

Save the Date: Forecast LA will be held on the morning of Wednesday, April 10, 2019 in Downtown LA.

More information about Forecast LA can be found [here](#).

This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).



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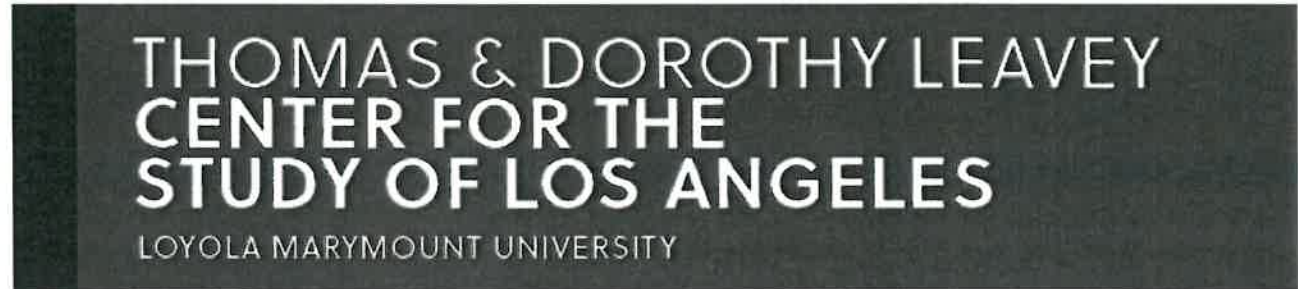


Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

Thank you for attending the 2018 Forecast LA Conference!

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Mon, Apr 23, 2018 at 3:35 PM



***Thank you for making the
5th Annual Forecast LA Conference
at Loyola Marymount University a success!***

For our 5th year running, we had a full house of Angelenos interested in what the LA region had to say in this year's public opinion poll. A big thank you to our wonderful speakers for a magnificent job sharing our important findings with 300+ city and state leaders!

Speakers included LMU President Timothy Law Snyder, StudyLA Director Fernando Guerra, LA City Councilmember Jose Huizar, StudyLA Associate Director Brianne Gilbert, Kosmont, Co. President and CEO Larry Kosmont and LA County Assessor Jeffrey Prang.

Moderating a panel on Silicon Beach and its impact on the Los Angeles Region was Executive Producer at Marketplace, Joanne Griffith with the following panelists: Billy Chun (LA Deputy Mayor of Economic Development), Brett Brewer (Co-Founder and Managing Director at Crosscut Ventures), Joseph Daverin (Software Engineer working in Silicon Beach) and James Suarez (CEO and Owner at Fineman Suarez)

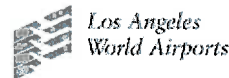
Posted on [our website](#) are the Forecast LA 2018 Conference Book, links to presentations, and the results of our conference attendee survey.

You can view pics of the conference on our facebook album [here](#). Just a preview of some of those pics:





Forecast LA would like to thank the following companies and organizations for their support.



Any questions? You can reach us at 310.338.4565 or studyla@lmu.edu

See you at the next Forecast LA in 2019!

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Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

Just two days before the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference!

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 2:56 PM

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

*Thank you for being an important part of civic LA! Register soon!
Only a limited number of seats are available. Use the [direct link](#) or register
using the complimentary admission code: STUDYLA2018.*



Event Details

Burns Recreation Center

1 LMU Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90045

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Breakfast: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Program: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Speakers Include:

Timothy Law Snyder

President, Loyola Marymount University

Fiona Ma

Vice Chair, California Board of Equalization

Jeffrey Prang

Assessor, Los Angeles County

Joanne Griffith

Executive Producer, Marketplace®

Moderator, Silicon Beach Panel

Larry J. Kosmont

President and CEO, Kosmont Companies

William “Billy” Chun

Deputy Mayor of Economic Development, City of Los Angeles

James Suarez

CEO and Owner, Fineman Suarez

Brett Brewer

Co-founder and Managing Director, Crosscut Ventures

Joseph Daverin

Senior Software Engineer working in Silicon Beach

Fernando J. Guerra

Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies

Professor, Department of Political Science

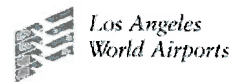
Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies

Lecturer, Department of Political Science

Forecast LA would like to thank the following companies and organizations for their support.



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Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 11:32 AM

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*Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference
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UPDATE: In addition to our stellar slate of speakers, this year we're excited to announce a partnership with **Marketplace®**. With 14.8 million weekly listeners, Marketplace is on a mission to raise the economic intelligence of the country. Don't miss a panel discussion moderated by Executive Producer Joanne Griffith, providing a comprehensive analysis on current issues and future trends in the Los Angeles Region.

Event Details

\$175 PER PERSON

To purchase tickets click [here](#).

Burns Recreation Center

[1 LMU Drive](#)

Los Angeles, CA 90045

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

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Fernando J. Guerra

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Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies

Professor, Department of Political Science

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies

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Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

LMU StudyLA's 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 3:10 PM

A dark grey banner with white text. The text reads "THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller font, is "LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY".

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

**Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference
at Loyola Marymount University**



The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University invites you to the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Event Details

\$175 PER PERSON

[To purchase tickets click here.](#)

Networking Breakfast: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Conference Program: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Burns Recreation Center

[1 LMU Drive](#)

Los Angeles, CA 90045

Confirmed speakers include*:

Timothy Law Snyder

President, Loyola Marymount University

Hon. Fiona Ma

Vice Chair, California Board of Equalization

Larry J. Kosmont

President and CEO, Kosmont Companies

Fernando J. Guerra

Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

*Additional speakers will be posted as they are confirmed.

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See you at *Forecast LA!*



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Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

Angelenos Back Hosting 2028 Olympics, LMU Survey Finds

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Tue, Aug 1, 2017 at 11:59 AM

Angelenos Back Hosting 2028 Olympics, Loyola Marymount University Survey Finds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES, August 1, 2017 - Public support for hosting the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles is overwhelming, and nearly as strong as it was for the 2024 Games, according to a survey by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

The survey, conducted July 13-18, found 83 percent of respondents in Los Angeles County said they want L.A. to host the Olympics in 2028. In an LMU survey conducted last year, 88 percent backed the city's effort to land the 2024 contest.

The International Olympic Committee recently decided to name host cities for both the 2024 and 2028 Games at its upcoming meeting in September. Los Angeles officials recently announced an agreement that would let Paris host first, leaving L.A. to host in 2028.

“The support among Angelenos for hosting the Summer Olympics remains strong, whether it’s in 2024 or 2028,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the Center. “The vast majority want the Games in L.A.”

Local public opinion has consistently favored hosting the Olympics. An IOC poll earlier this year, whose methodology was not disclosed, found 78 percent of respondents in Los Angeles supported the city’s original 2024 bid.

The LMU survey reached 600 respondents by phone and online. It found 54 percent “strongly support” the 2028 Olympics, 29 percent “somewhat” supported, 9 percent “somewhat” opposed and 8 percent “strongly” opposed. Among those who backed the bid, the most frequently cited reason was for a perceived economic boost to the region.

The survey found no major differences among demographic categories—that is, support for the 2028 Olympics was similar across the board.

Additionally, 70 percent of respondents said they’d attend an Olympic event in person if Los Angeles hosted in 2028. But on the other end of the spectrum, 21 percent indicated they would leave town during the Games.

The survey was funded by the LA24 Committee, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and Loyola Marymount University.

###

CONTACT

Mason Stockstill

Assistant Director of Communications and Media Relations for LMU

310.338.5133

mason.stockstill@lmu.edu

Follow at [@LMUstudyLA](https://twitter.com/LMUstudyLA) for the latest research updates.



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Dan Caroselli <dan.caroselli@lacity.org>

Join us at LMU's Forecast LA on 4/19

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: dan.caroselli@lacity.org

Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 1:09 PM

**Register as a guest of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles using
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Registration fee is \$175 per person. Using promo code **studyLA2017** at checkout activates a \$175 discount
until **Monday, April 17**.

[To reserve your complimentary ticket click here.](#)

Event Details

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Breakfast: 8 - 9 am

Program: 9 - 11:30 am

Gersten Pavilion

Loyola Marymount University
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Speakers

Fernando J. Guerra

Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University

Larry J. Kosmont

President and CEO, Kosmont Companies

Rusty Hicks

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Timothy Law Snyder

President, Loyola Marymount University

Gene Sykes

CEO, LA 2024

Herb Wesson

President & District 10 Representative, Los Angeles City Council

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For more information about Forecast LA including past conference details, presentations, and publications please visit forecastLA.lmu.edu.

See you at the Forecast LA conference!



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Efrat Sharony <efty.sharony@lacity.org>

Greetings from Franky Carrillo

4 messages

Franky Carrillo <[REDACTED]> Fri, Aug 31, 2018 at 8:58 AM
To: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, Efrat Sharony <efty.sharony@lacity.org>

Fernando,

Good morning. I hope you're well. I wanted to reintroduce you to my wife Efty.

Efty has been the Director for the office of re-entry within LA city hall for a few months now. I mentioned that you're not only the leading expert on anything related to LA, but that you attract all the top minds at LMU. She's looking for a team of students to intern for her and I thought you might be able to help.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Franky

Efrat Sharony <efty.sharony@lacity.org> Fri, Aug 31, 2018 at 9:44 AM
To: Franky Carrillo <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>

Good Morning Fernando,

Nice to re-e-meet you. I would love to set up some time for us to grab lunch or coffee so I can learn more about your amazing work and figure out ways to collaborate. As Franky mentioned, I am looking for 3-5 interns to help with gathering resources to put together a comprehensive reentry resource manual and possibly some other projects. Maybe we could set up some time to chat on the phone and then find some time to meet in person in the coming weeks.

Looking forward to connecting!

Thanks,

Efty Sharony

[Quoted text hidden]

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--



Efty Sharony | Director, Office of Reentry
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-1845 (Office)
213-910-1571 (Cell)

Gilbert, Brianne <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu> Fri, Aug 31, 2018 at 10:33 AM
To: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>, "Efty Sharony" <efty.sharony@lacity.org>

Hi Franky and Efty,

Small world! Efty and I just spoke last week at Leadership LA. I teach LMU's Political Science internship course so I sent a message to the class to see if anyone is available. Many of the students for this semester already have their internships lined up (this group was really on the ball!), but moving forward I can certainly help move people your direction.

Have a good day!
Bri

From: Guerra, Fernando
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2018 9:07 AM
To: Gilbert, Brianne <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Greetings from Franky Carrillo

Sent from my Dr. Fernando Guerra iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

[Quoted text hidden]

Efrat Sharony <efty.sharony@lacity.org>
To: "Gilbert, Brianne" <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, [REDACTED]

Fri, Aug 31, 2018 at 11:40 AM

Thank you so much Brianne! I really appreciate it. Hope we can all connect again soon!

Thanks,

Efty Sharony
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from StudyLA

1 message

LMU StudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 2:51 PM



Thank you for your support in another year of outstanding research, thoughtful student mentorship, and contributions to the Los Angeles region.

We are grateful to all of you!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Loyola Marymount University

Fernando Guerra, director

Brianne Gilbert, associate director

Melissa Alvarenga, director of development

Alejandra Alarcon, research coordinator

Alex Kempler, research assistant

Jorge Cortes, research coordinator

Mariya Vizireanu, research associate

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES**

University Hall 310.338.4565
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4119 www.lmu.edu/studyLA
Los Angeles, CA 90045 @LMUstudyLA

March 27, 2017

Chief of Staff Ana Guerrero
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, MS-370
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Guerrero

On behalf of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, we invite you to participate in a panel discussion at our upcoming event: Los Angeles, 25 Years Later.

Title	Los Angeles, 25 Years Later
Date	Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Time	5:00pm-7:00pm
Location	Loyola Marymount University, Life Sciences Building Auditorium

As we near the 25th anniversary of the riots and disturbances, we aim to commemorate and reflect on the 1992 events with two panel discussions. The panels will examine the work that has been done over the past 25 years in relation to the riots as well as the current and future state of race relations in Los Angeles. Given your expertise in the area, we would be honored to have you contribute to the second panel. This panel will take place from 6:00pm-7:00pm, with a 45 minute discussion and a 15 minute question-and-answer section.

Your breadth of experience in Los Angeles will contribute greatly to our dialogue and foster a fruitful question-and-answer session with the audience. The event will be open to students, faculty, and members of our University and the local community, and the discussion will be filmed and made available as a webcast and podcast shortly after.

The Center for the Study of Los Angeles was founded in the 1996-1997 academic year to examine how the riots impacted life for Los Angeles residents. We would be honored to have you join us for a cocktail reception following the two panels, celebrating our Center's 20th anniversary and our longitudinal effort to learn more about the riots' impact.

We will be in touch with you shortly to follow up with this invitation. Please feel welcome to contact Research Coordinator Alejandra Alarcon by phone (310.338.4565) or via email (alejandra.alarcon@lmu.edu) with any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Fernando J. Guerra, Ph.D.
Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Professor, Political Science & Chicana/o Studies

Brianne Gilbert, M.A.
Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Lecturer, Political Science & Urban Studies



Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Angelenos Back Hosting 2028 Olympics, LMU Survey Finds

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Tue, Aug 1, 2017 at 11:59 AM

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

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The survey was funded by the LA24 Committee, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and Loyola Marymount University.

###

CONTACT

Mason Stockstill

Assistant Director of Communications and Media Relations for LMU

310.338.5133

mason.stockstill@lmu.edu

Follow at [@LMUstudyLA](https://twitter.com/LMUstudyLA) for the latest research updates.

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Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
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The 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference is almost here!

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 3:57 PM



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Thank you for being an important part of civic LA! We would like to extend you an invitation to you to our 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference as our guest. We have limited space – so register soon! Use the [direct link](#) or register using the complimentary admission code: STUDYLA2018.



UPDATE: Don't miss an exciting panel discussing Silicon Beach with insiders from the

tech industry, venture capital, and the City of Los Angeles. This panel will be hosted by Joanne Griffith, Executive Producer at [Marketplace®](#). With 14.8 million weekly listeners, Marketplace is on a mission to raise the economic intelligence of the country.

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Professor, Department of Political Science

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies

Lecturer, Department of Political Science



Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses](#)
[LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers](#)
[LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike](#)
[LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \\$25 million in attendance, but saved \\$10 million in wages](#)
[LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain](#)
[REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president](#)
[REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks](#)
[NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday](#)
[LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations](#)
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[THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend](#)

LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

“Very little in the way of educational activity,” Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. “At one point, they tried to show the movie ‘Christopher Robin,’ but the sound quality was so bad it couldn’t be understood. Couldn’t read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything.”

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. “We kept him home today,” she said of her son, “and probably will for the rest of the week.”

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers “heroes.”

“Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids’ side,” García said. “We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike.”

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

“As I’ve said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I’ll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this,” he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

“This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles,” said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of “looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We’ve got to change that.”

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad

in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with

the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because

the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." [pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq](https://twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq)

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and

infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." <https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president

of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st

Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,' " said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take

my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group

As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone

By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest

services.”

The warrant also seeks “all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors” and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others “assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes.”

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, “the scandal is what’s legal.”

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used “straw donors” to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The “Committee for a Safer Los Angeles” was an entity called an “independent expenditure committee.” Garcetti’s adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was “barely aware” of it and had “nothing” to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of “behested payments,” unlimited contributions that are made at the “behest” of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has “behested” over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the “Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles,” and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the “Los Angeles Parks Foundation” at Garcetti’s request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price “behested” over \$245,000 for the “Coalition for Responsible Community Development,” which has a stated mission to “improve local planning.”

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he’d have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that’s about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for

three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really “cost-neutral” as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, “because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants.”

“It’s frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on,” said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. “The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments,” Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I’m not actually sure that’s true. Democrats might not have an “inevitable” frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our “five corners” series on the Democratic field, you’re going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The “five corners” refers to what we claim are the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three

of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a

large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch #WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothevotes.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own – let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 6:55 AM

To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti

UNIVISION: [Alcalde de Los Ángeles promociona la ciudad para atraer el turismo mexicano \(VIDEO ONLY\)](#)

POLITICO: ['This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight](#)

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Politico

'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight

By: [Jeremy B. White](#)

OAKLAND — The next big political fight over data privacy may center on an unlikely piece of technology: The scooters currently flying around streets and scattered on sidewalks in cities across the country.

And as always, it's brewing first in California, the state that last year enacted a landmark consumer privacy law that's roiling Silicon Valley and Washington policymakers.

In Los Angeles, a dispute over how the city manages data embedded in Uber-operated scooters has emerged as a leading-edge privacy issue, foreshadowing a debate over the government's role in managing sensitive data in a new era of connected transit.

City officials want granular location information on thousands of dockless scooters that are proliferating in the sprawling southern California metropolis. They say it's critical to know what's happening in their streets and ensure people are being served equitably.

But Uber's dockless vehicle company, JUMP, is pushing back, arguing that the scale of data Los Angeles wants poses a menace to personal privacy.

In a letter to Los Angeles Department of Transportation manager Seleta Reynolds, the company warned of "an unprecedented level of surveillance, oversight, and control that LADOT would wield over private companies and individual citizens." (Reynolds responded that those concerns were "uninformed, and therefore, falsely characterize" the situation.)

The clash opens another chapter in a long-running conflict between cities and mobility companies, like Uber, that previously sought to aggressively expand before getting official approval. Uber and Lyft have for years sparred with cities over access to what the companies consider valuable proprietary information.

Skeptics of Uber's motives note that companies already collect huge amounts of personal data, and not always with positive results: Uber reached a \$148 million settlement with California earlier this year over a massive breach of consumer information.

But Uber's letter hits on a larger concern about government's expanding role in tracking how people move around. Privacy advocates say that location data is especially sensitive given that it can reveal a person's movements and private transactions — all the more so given that dockless vehicles can take a person directly to or from their home or business.

"I think it's the big privacy issue of the next few years," said Joseph Jerome, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology's data and privacy project. "This sort of combination of private data in public hands is going to be a bigger and bigger issue, and when it's geolocation there are some particular questions."

Former Los Angeles Assemblyman Mike Gatto, who oversaw a nascent committee devoted to privacy, recounted Department of Motor Vehicles officials talking about persistent hacking attempts and police officers improperly accessing

state databases.

Gatto warned that when government agencies create public databases, “law enforcement has the ability to access it, and they will.”

A LADOT spokesperson said the agency would share data with the Los Angeles Police Department only when presented with a warrant; the spokesperson did not answer questions about whether information can be revealed in a lawsuit or what restrictions LA imposes on sharing between city agencies.

The debate comes as cities contend with an explosion of scooters: pending applications would put roughly 40,000 more on LA's roads, according to LADOT chief sustainability officer Marcel Porras.

“We were looking to respond quickly to a new mobility that kind of landed on our streets without permission,” he said.

Porras said it's critical for the city to have a clear view of a rapidly growing means of transit so they can stay on top of the swiftly changing situation on the ground and see if scooters end up “in the LA River.”

City officials also want that data so they can ensure companies are abiding by promises to make the technology available to lower-income residents “in areas of the city where these types of private sector investments may not normally go to first,” Porras said.

“We're telling companies that if they want to expand their fleet, you have to put more of these units in disadvantaged communities,” Porras said.

Porras said city officials rigorously examined privacy implications and ultimately decided to classify the location information as confidential, meaning it's not subject to public records requests. He noted that the information LA is collecting does not include personal identifiers.

“We are collecting vehicle information, not information on riders,” he said.

Los Angeles is widely seen as ahead of the curve on data practices. A representative for **Mayor Eric Garcetti** stressed that record and said the city strives to keep residents informed “as new technologies emerge.”

“Scooter location is tracked in a transparent way that protects user privacy, and the city has a strong track record of improving systems through data while being sensitive to privacy concerns,” spokeswoman Anna Bahr said in a release.

Such assurances, however, have met with skepticism from people who have observed the perils of how government agencies manage data.

“The data's only as good as its weakest link,” Gatto said. “I do believe this is one of those issues that is at the tipping point,” he added, noting “this gut feeling we all have which is ‘this is creepy — why is government tracking every single move and storing the data?’”

The debate is unfurling as the state wrestles over the scope of the California Consumer Privacy Act, which emerged last year amid growing concerns about Big Tech's intrusiveness.

While Los Angeles says the law does not apply to data schema managed by government, the parallel developments demonstrate how data privacy is becoming a paramount consideration for policymakers — particularly the large and growing pool of information on where people are going in a world of increasingly sophisticated and connected transit.

“If you know where people work and pray and play you know a whole lot about them,” Jerome said. “Our concern is [Los Angeles] is asking for a whole lot of data — more frequent and rigorous real-time data than companies collect and provide at the moment.”

The issue isn't restricted to Los Angeles. In her capacity as an official in the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Reynolds has been sharing LA's data collection method as a possible model for other cities — an effort that transit experts said was gaining traction far beyond California.

She was among the NACTO officials last year touting a project called Shared Streets that lets private companies and public agencies share transit data. A NACTO representative declined to speak on the record, but the Shared Streets website has a section devoted to assuring that “incredibly sensitive” data would be anonymized.

Last December, a collection of chief data officers of American cities signed an open letter heralding the launch of dockless vehicles and arguing that cities getting their raw data was “essential for internal urban planning.” They argued for “block-level aggregation” that would safeguard privacy and against sharing individual routes.

Hanging over the scooter debate is an intensifying race by major tech and auto companies to deploy autonomous vehicles at scale. Driverless cars traveled more than two million miles on California's public roads last year, according to the DMV, a fourfold increase from the prior year.

Those vehicles generate enormous amounts of data. As California and the federal government work to shape the rules that should govern their use, transportation experts said LA's foray into managing transportation data could offer a glimpse of what's to come.

"Scooters are sort of a test case for how transit agencies are going to manage data as you deploy more technology," Jerome said.

In LA, a city that's long been emblematic of personal car culture, city officials are bracing for seismic changes brought on by the confluence of shared ridership, autonomous vehicle technology and big data. A LADOT plan repeatedly underscores how the city will need to assert its authority.

"Control is a fundamental aspect of today's transportation network and will become even more critical in the future," the plan says, which will mean launching a "technology platform that enables our Department to actively manage the transportation network in ways we previously have not."

The report describes the implications in strikingly evocative terms, predicting that the "technical, political, and structural aspects of this change are momentous, but so is the human emotional one."

The word "privacy" does not appear in the document.

LA Times

Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

By: Howard Blume

Last year, the power of the local teachers union seemed to be on the wane while charter schools' prospects were rising. Los Angeles Board of Education members backed by charter supporters were in control, and they'd pushed through a new superintendent whose background had nothing to do with education.

On Tuesday, voters showed how quickly things can change.

Jackie Goldberg, the union-backed candidate, easily outpaced nine others on the ballot in a special election that could shift the balance on the school board — thanks in large part to public support cultivated during a six-day teachers' strike in January.

The 74-year-old veteran public official didn't quite get the majority needed to win the District 5 seat outright, but she claimed 48% of the vote, making her the strong favorite in a May 14 runoff against a second-place finisher who trailed her by 35 percentage points.

Goldberg, who served on the board for two terms until 1991, proclaimed herself part of a larger movement to bring more resources to education — and also to rein in charter schools.

"This is the beginning and not the end of putting together all those people who came together around the teachers' strike — not just here but in Oakland and the folks in Madera and the folks in Fresno that are all trying to make these things happen," Goldberg said. "People moved to California when I was young for our schools. And since then we have starved them, and we cannot continue starving them. This movement is about that."

It's not yet clear who Goldberg will face in the runoff, but it will either be Graciela Ortiz or Heather Repenning, who at last count were separated by 53 votes. Neither would be a clear-cut option for charter supporters. The candidate with the strongest pro-charter position, Allison Bajracharya, finished fifth.

Ortiz is a school counselor and a member of the Huntington Park City Council. Repenning is a former public works commissioner and longtime senior aide to L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti. Their order of finish will be settled by mail-in and provisional ballots. The vote count can continue as late as March 19.

A timely candidate

Goldberg's success was partly due to her own brand: She served on the school board, on the L.A. City Council and in the state Legislature; she's well-known and well-regarded by many.

But her success also was built on teacher activism, including last year's strikes in other states and this year's walkouts in

Los Angeles and Oakland. Union leaders in L.A. followed up their January strike by immediately launching a campaign that spent about \$660,000 on Goldberg's behalf. She also raised about \$200,000 for her own campaign — and she noted Tuesday night that she'd benefited from 1,300 small contributions and 800 volunteers.

Her activism goes way back to the UC Berkeley free speech movement of the mid-1960s — an era, she noted, in which students paid no tuition for their higher education. The state, she said, needs to find its way back to a deeper investment in its children.

Charter schools, too, would benefit from increased education funding, but charter advocates strongly — although quietly — opposed Goldberg. They worry about her calls for limiting the number of new charters and imposing more stringent regulations on them. (Both would require changes to state law.)

Goldberg aligns with those who say that privately operated charters — which compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that goes with them — are undermining public education. Charter backers counter that their schools have provided healthy competition and high-quality choices for families. About 1 in 5 local public school students now attend a charter — and wealthy pro-charter donors want further charter expansion.

Anti-charter themes were a regular refrain of striking teachers, and they seemed to strike a chord with people who may not previously have been familiar with the arguments.

A survey of L.A. Unified School District residents during and just after the strike found that about 3 in 4 said the focus should be on improving existing public schools rather than on alternatives such as charter schools, said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

Although the charter lobby remains powerful, it also suffered a setback at the state level last year, when it ran campaigns on behalf of candidates who lost the races for governor and the state superintendent of public instruction. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom — who has signaled his openness to more regulation of charter school — signed legislation that would compel charters to follow laws on public records and public meetings.

Money matters

Tuesday's outcome also marked a new direction in another way. In several previous elections, pro-charter funders outspent everyone — to good effect. In 2017, candidates they backed claimed their first-ever L.A. school board majority. And a charter school founder, Ref Rodriguez, became president of the board.

Rodriguez represented District 5 — the region on Tuesday's ballot, which takes in neighborhoods north of downtown and then cuts a narrow path east of downtown to the cities of southeast L.A. County. He was supposed to serve through 2020.

Two months after Rodriguez became board president, however, prosecutors charged him with political money laundering. He stepped down as president but remained on the board for nearly a year, just long enough to cast a crucial vote for hiring businessman Austin Beutner as superintendent.

Goldberg said she would have voted to hire an educator rather than Beutner, but she also said she would try to work with the superintendent.

Rodriguez resigned in July after pleading guilty to one felony and three misdemeanors. His crimes, his delay in leaving office and his willingness to cast important swing votes during that time did not sit well with some parents and voters.

For this week's primary, charter backers were never able to coalesce around an opponent to Goldberg. Bajracharya, an executive at a charter organization, had substantial support from charter allies but not the overwhelming sums provided by mega-donors in recent elections.

Four candidates raised enough money to get their message out: Goldberg, Bajracharya, Ortiz and Repenning. And each also had donors who funded independent campaigns on their behalf. The teachers union's spending on Goldberg was a relative bargain compared to what it spent in recent races — often in a losing cause.

But the biggest spender in the primary was Local 99 of Services Employees International Union, which represents most nonteaching district employees. It put nearly \$1 million into a campaign to elect Repenning, who also had the endorsement of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Part of Local 99's money paid for a misleading campaign against Goldberg, describing her as a career politician who is "always looking out for #1" and who favored prisons over schools, slashed education spending and presided over a failing school system.

Even if their campaign helped force a runoff, Repenning finished so far back that Local 99 now must ponder how much it

wants to continue fighting Goldberg, with whom the union previously has gotten along.

Many observers assumed that the pro-charter funders — organized under the group California Charter Schools Assn. Advocates — were simply holding their fire till the runoff. Goldberg's strong showing could affect that calculus.

A spokesman for CCSA Advocates declined to comment Wednesday.

Also covered by: [LA Magazine](#), [LA Daily News](#), [Eastsider LA](#)

LA Times

Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

To the editor: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to explore congestion pricing. This is a bad idea.

We cannot tax our way out of traffic any more than we can reduce the number of residents in and around Los Angeles, nor can most people change where they live or where they must travel to work.

Encouraging housing development along the various Metro routes is an option, but ultimately, we will never be able to overcome the challenges presented by the spread-out geography of greater Los Angeles.

If Los Angeles and other nearby cities really want to see traffic move more quickly, they should put significantly more effort and money into repairing our streets, which are in a shameful and dare I say dangerous state of disrepair.

Joe Grauman, Los Angeles

..

To the editor: A single word appearing in the article explains everything. The word is "choice," and it implies that working people will make an informed decision about whether or not to pay an additional tax to get to work.

The only real choice would be to pay the tax or pay one's rent. The effect of congestion pricing will be to remove working poor people from the highway so the wealthy can relax.

If the Red Line subway went from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and all other rail lines were complete, there might be a bit of fairness to this proposal. But in this form, it is merely insulting.

Jon Hartmann, Los Angeles

..

To the editor: Metro wants to study a proposal to tax motorists and ride-share operators to the tune of \$580 million over a decade. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is quoted as saying, "This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue."

If that is true, then the Metro board members should read the L.A. Times' March 4 op-ed article, "We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence." They would learn the city of Hangzhou used artificial intelligence to decrease road congestion.

It's a shame there isn't this kind of intelligence, artificial or otherwise, at Metro.

Tom Keiser, Pasadena

Mercury News

Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

By: Casey Tolan

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo backed Sen. Kamala Harris for president Thursday, lending his support to a fellow former Bay Area prosecutor as her campaign rolled out endorsements from a slate of California mayors.

"Senator Harris stands head and shoulders above the current field in the ability to articulate a vision that can move America forward and a willingness to say what needs to be said," Liccardo told the Bay Area News Group in an interview. "She's been a great champion for California and for our values."

In Harris' latest move to consolidate home state support, she also announced endorsements from Mayors London Breed of San Francisco, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Robert Garcia of Long Beach and Aja Brown of Compton.

Harris' campaigns for office "paved the way for me and many women who have sought elected office in this state," Breed

said in a statement. "She is acutely aware of the work that needs to be done on behalf of this nation and is prepared to lead and lift up hard-working men and women across this nation."

The former state attorney general and San Francisco district attorney, Harris has already won the backing of elected officials up and down the California ballot, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, five members of Congress and a host of other state officers and legislators. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf also endorsed Harris at her campaign kick-off rally earlier this year.

The Golden State is expected to play an unusually important role this year due to its early spot on the calendar and its major delegate haul. Californians will go to the polls on March 3, just after the four traditional early states and on the same day as a more than a half-dozen other states including Texas, North Carolina and Virginia.

As of Thursday, Harris has the support of all the Democratic leaders of California's nine biggest cities except for **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, who publicly mused about a presidential bid before deciding not to run in January. He hasn't made a choice in the race.

The latest endorsements for Harris aren't exactly a surprise. Breed, who called the senator her "Bay Area sister," hosted a friendly San Francisco event for Harris' book tour earlier this year and attended her Oakland rally.

Liccardo, a former Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, said he was impressed by Harris' work with him and other mayors on under-the-radar issues like improving emergency warning systems. Harris will be the best candidate to balance progressive policies with appeals to moderate voters, he argued: "If this is just a contest to see who can race faster to the left, the Democratic Party will be headed for defeat in 2020."

Harris might not be the only Californian in the race for the White House: East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell is also considering a run, and spent this past weekend meeting activists across northeast Iowa, his 17th trip to the state since the beginning of 2017.

San Fernando Valley Business Journal **VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport** By: Mark Madler

The Aviation Committee of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association received an update Wednesday on efforts to allow public events in aircraft hangars at Van Nuys Airport.

Max Reyes, an economic policy manager in **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office, told the committee that the mayor's office has been working with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles World Airports, representatives from Councilwoman Nury Martinez's office and the Van Nuys Airport Association on the issue.

"We feel there has been progress," said Flora Margheritis, general manager of Van Nuys Airport.

Right now, a point of contention is about whether the large hangar doors will be considered emergency exits, Reyes said.

The issue of public events at the San Fernando Valley airfield came to the attention of airport tenants and VICA in December at a meeting of the airport association. Tenants were told of a city of Los Angeles administrative ruling that prohibits public events in hangars at Van Nuys Airport and warehouses across the city and that the Building and Safety Department would begin to enforce it.

A report is expected in the next week or two from the department and a proposed ordinance sponsored by Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee on March 19, Reyes said.

The proposed ordinance, introduced in December, instructs the L.A. Fire Department and Building and Safety Department to recommend a system to permit events at hangars.

"There is a pathway there and we are working on that," said Curt Castagna, who serves as president of the Van Nuys Airport Association

VICA has become involved with the issue as its executive committee in December passed a resolution in opposition to the event ban and calling for deferring implementation of the ban at Van Nuys and Los Angeles International airports for 180 days; creating standards for review and a permitting process; and making a clear distinction between hangars and warehouses.

Jewish Journal **Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism** By: Ryan Torok and Aaron Bandler

A mural in downtown Los Angeles depicting the Grim Reaper wrapped inside an American flag emblazoned with Jewish stars, gripping a baby, cradling a missile and surrounded by snakes, has been deemed anti-Semitic by several civic leaders and organizations, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's office.

"This mural is a shameful act of anti-Semitism," Alex Comisar, a spokesman for Garcetti, said in a statement. "Imagery like this should have no place in our city."

The image, on the exterior wall of The Vortex, a performance and event space in an industrial downtown neighborhood, was first painted in 2011 by local artist Vyal Reyes as part of an art show titled, "LA vs. WAR." In 2018, Reyes said on his Instagram page that the work was inspired by a trip he took "to Palestine some years back."

However, the controversy didn't erupt until Feb. 25, when Zhenya Rozinskiy of boutique consulting firm Mirigos shared a photograph of the mural on his Facebook page and it went viral.

Among those condemning the mural was Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party. The group posted a picture of the mural on its Facebook page and tagged the Vortex, stating: "Hey The Vortex, Is this a real thing on your building? If yes, why? It's wildly anti-Semitic. If not, you should probably clear up the confusion. Signed, Some confused and concerned community members."

But in an email to the Journal, Reyes said he isn't anti-Semitic and that he intended the mural to be "critical of the U.S. and its increasing focus on war."

"That particular neighborhood that the mural was painted in was in worse shape at the time and homeless people lived all around there," Reyes said. "It seemed to me at the time that the U.S. was more into funding war than helping its homeless. Even at that time, the U.S. was funding massive amounts of money to Israel, as they still are. That's not anti-Semitic; that's just a fact."

Jeff Norman, a representative of the Vortex, also defended Reyes. "The Vortex stands for free expression," Norman said in an email to the Journal. "The artist whose mural includes the Star of David (created for the LA vs. WAR show to acknowledge 9/11 about 5-6 years ago) did not intend to express an anti-Semitic message. We believe his intent deserves considerable weight. We invite those who feel otherwise to paint another mural next to it. We are also open to hosting a public discussion about this controversy at The Vortex."

But on the night of Feb. 25 or the morning of Feb. 26, the words "No place for hate" were painted over the mural. While it's unclear who was responsible for defacing the mural, the artists' rights organization Artists 4 Israel sent a photograph of the defaced mural to their email list subscribers on Feb. 26.

When asked if his group was responsible for painting over the mural, Artists 4 Israel CEO Craig Dershowitz told the Journal that he did not have any comment, although he conceded that he was troubled by the mural's imagery.

As of press time, The Vortex had not made any effort to repair the mural or to notify the police about the defacement, Norman said.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League has called for the mural's removal.

"For a venue that purports to welcome the community, The Vortex should join us in condemning hateful imagery that invokes anti-Semitic canards conflating Jews with death, snakes, bombs and killing babies," the organization said in a statement.



Cate Hurley | Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)

VICA Weekly: 2017 Business Forecast Conference Edition

1 message

Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) <vica@vica.com>

Reply-To: armando@vica.com

To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

Mon, Oct 23, 2017 at 4:12 PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

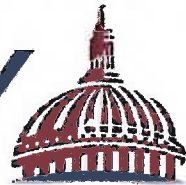


October 23, 2017 2017 Business Forecast Conference Edition

Valley Industry & Commerce Association

VICAWEEKLY

Serving the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and San Fernando



In This Issue

Media Highlights
Members
Calendar

"People want to be part of something bigger than before."

- Larry Freedman,
Executive Vice President
& Chief Business Officer,
Los Angeles Football
Club

Media Highlights

San Fernando Valley
Residents Like What
They See In The
Economy, But Concern
Looms Over Wealth Gap

[Daily News](#)
October 20

Economists and Experts Map the Future at Business Forecast Conference



Breakfast Sponsor Mark Davis (Hilton Universal City), Presenting Sponsor Patrick Nygren (Wells Fargo), Fernando Guerra (Loyola Marymount University), Eugenio Aleman (Wells Fargo) and Jeff Kravetz (U.S. Bank) at VICA's 29th Annual Business Forecast Conference.

VICA Conference
Features Economic
Forecast
[San Fernando Valley
Business Journal](#)
October 20

RecycLA's Greenest
Benefits Could be in the
San Fernando Valley
[LA Daily News](#)
October 16

Transit: Once More, With
Feeling
[San Fernando Valley
Business Journal](#)
October 11

Members

VICA Thanks Our Renewing Members

Children's Hospital Los
Angeles
Mid-Valley Family YMCA
Planning Associates

VICA Welcomes Its New Members

Phillips Graduate
University

Calendar

The Week Ahead

Great Futures Gala
*Hosted by the Boys
and Girls Club of the
West Valley*
Friday, Oct. 27
6:30 p.m.
**Warner Center
Marriott Hotel**
[Click here](#) for more
information.

**Move LA 9th Annual
Transportation
Conversation**
Sponsored by VICA
Friday, Oct. 27
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Conference Center at
LA Cathedral
[Click here](#) for more
information.

Save The Date

**Manufacturing Day
with Congressman
Cardenas**

Industry leaders and experts attended VICA's 29th Annual Business Forecast Conference (BFC) on Friday for an economic forecast breakfast, panels on a variety of topics impacting businesses, and a luncheon with Larry Freedman, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer of the Los Angeles Football Club. The event, presented by the **Southern California Gas Company** and **Wells Fargo**, brought business leaders together to discuss important issues.

Attendees began their day with an economic forecast breakfast, sponsored by **Hilton Universal City** and **U.S. Bank** and moderated by Patrick Nygren (**Wells Fargo**). Eugenio Aleman, Director & Senior Economist at **Wells Fargo**, began the discussion by providing an overview of where the economy is going on a national level, and discussing the type of impact tax reform could have on the economy. Next, Jeffrey Kravetz, Regional Investment Director for The Private Client Reserve of **U.S. Bank**, spoke about California's economy, including unemployment rate, job growth, and rate of construction. Fernando J. Guerra, Ph.D., Director of The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at **Loyola Marymount University** rounded out the discussion with a look at the Los Angeles economy, and how the outlook in the San Fernando Valley compares regionally.

Larry Freedman Reveals Details for Los Angeles Football Club Stadium



Over 400 guests attended VICA's 29th Annual Business Forecast Conference and enjoyed a luncheon with Larry Freedman (Los Angeles Football Club).

Larry Freedman, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer of the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC), spoke about the exciting preparations for their first season next year. "We all come together for the community through soccer," said Freedman as he shared insight about the new Los Angeles stadium. The Banc of California Stadium will be located in Exposition Park, and will seat 23,000 fans. Freedman outlined highlights of the stadium including premium spaces. He noted that the stadium was designed as a bowl with steep seats so that the experience is intimate and energetic, with all fans close to the field. Freedman also spoke about efforts to engage local residents and fans, for example by creating a standing-section with a bar in the stadium. The luncheon was sponsored by **Albertsons**, **Vons & Pavilions** and **The Walt Disney Co.**

Track One, Panel One: Voyage to LA-LA-Land

Monday, Oct. 30
9-11 a.m.

Spectrolab
12500 Gladstone Ave.
Sylmar

Click [here](#) for more information.

After Dark with Vince Berton

Wednesday, Nov. 1
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by **Bobrick Washroom**

6901 Tujunga Ave., N.
Hollywood

Click [here](#) for more information.

Education Committee

Sponsored
by **Woodbury University**

Thursday, Nov. 2
8:30 - 10 a.m.

VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way
#170, Van Nuys

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Transportation Committee

Tuesday, Nov. 7
8 - 10 a.m.

Hosted by **The Garland**

4222 Vineland Ave., N.
Hollywood

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Aviation Committee

Wed., Nov 8
12 - 1:30 p.m.

Hosted by **Aerolease East**

7943 Woodley Ave.
Van Nuys

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Energy, Environment & Utilities Committee

Sponsored
by **Metropolitan Water District**

Thursday, Nov. 9
12 - 1:30 p.m.

VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way
#170, Van Nuys

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Leaders Forum with Supervisor Kuehl

Friday, Nov. 10
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Braemar Country Club

4001 Reseda Blvd.
Tarzana

Click [here](#) to RSVP

Inaugural Women in Philanthropy

Boutique, Luncheon,
Fashion Show and Awards

Hosted by **Valley Presbyterian Hospital Foundation**
Wednesday, Nov. 15



Our panel of tourism industry experts considered the impacts of the 2028 Summer Games, the new Rams stadium, and other exciting new developments in Los Angeles. Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Ranjan Goswami (**Delta Air Lines**), Patti MacJennett (**L.A. Tourism and Convention Board**), and Dr. Sarah Fischbach (**California Lutheran University**) discussed the importance of meeting capacity needs for transit, building more hotels, and ensuring the safety of tourists when they visit Los Angeles. Councilmember Krekorian said, "Hospitality and tourism is the key factor of economic success." The panel was moderated by Mark Davis (**Hilton Universal City**) and sponsored by the **Los Angeles Rams**. The panel was part of the 'Lost at Sea' track, which was sponsored by **California Lutheran University** and **Woodbury University**.

Track One, Panel Two: Learning the Ropes



CSUN President Dianne Harrison moderated this panel featuring education and industry leaders discussing the challenges and opportunities in preparing students for the workforce of today -- and tomorrow. Dr. Frances Gipson (**LAUSD**) spoke about the school district's progress in graduating students who are college-prepared and career-ready. Adrian Wilson (**Microsoft**) and Dr. Paul Witman (**California Lutheran University**) discussed workforce pipeline issues in the science, technology, engineering and math sectors. Nicole Rice (**California Manufacturers & Technology Association**) spoke about efforts to maintain, grow and fill jobs in California's manufacturing industry. The panel was sponsored by **UCLA Extension** and was part of the 'Lost at Sea' track, sponsored by **California Lutheran University** and **Woodbury University**.

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Airtel Plaza Hotel
7277 Valjean Ave., Van
Nuys
[Click here](#) for more
information.

Hot Issues

Economic Development

Gov. Jerry Brown is offering tax breaks and other incentives worth hundreds of millions of dollars should Amazon choose the Golden State as the site of its second home.

National Security

A federal judge in Maryland granted a nationwide preliminary injunction against the latest iteration of President Trump's travel ban, following a similar order by a federal judge in Hawaii. The judge said the administration had "not shown that national security cannot be maintained without an unprecedented eight-country travel ban."

Law Enforcement

Last Tuesday, a civilian oversight panel signed off on a yearlong test of drones by the Los Angeles Police Department, which will become the largest police department in the nation to deploy the controversial technology.

Economy

The federal government's recently released annual accounting of business output of U.S. metro areas shows the L.A.-O.C. region's GDP rose to \$1.002 trillion. Only three states and 15 nations have larger GDPs.

Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court denied Scenic America's appeal of its legal attack on digital billboards, ending a four-year legal battle.

Higher Education

California community colleges will provide a year of free tuition after

Track Two, Panel One: Finding the Best Route



As cities compete for economic opportunities, panelists discussed best practices for cities to attract and retain business. Santa Clarita Mayor Cameron Smyth and Glendale City Manager Scott Ochoa both lead cities which have won awards for being business-friendly, and they contributed their insights along with Dr. Michael Shires (**Pepperdine School of Public Policy**) and Harlan Levy (**McDonald's USA**). The panelists mentioned the importance of a transparent government in order to effectively engage with the people they represent. They also pointed to businesses being the back bone of cities, but being driven out by high costs and regulations. The panel was moderated by Mark Vetter (**Aerojet Rocketdyne**), and was sponsored by **Aerojet Rocketdyne**. The panel was part of the 'Fork in the Path' track, sponsored by **Clear Channel Outdoor** and the **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**.

Track Two, Panel Two: Getting Off Track



A lively discussion on some of the worst ideas to come out of Sacramento was moderated by Ruben Gonzalez (**Gonzalez Strategic Affairs**). California Assemblymember Vince Fong joined veteran journalist Dan Walters (**CALmatters**), columnist Susan Shelley (**Los Angeles Daily News**), and Marc Joffe (**Reason Foundation**) for the panel, which concluded that bad policy is driving up the costs in our daily lives. Topics ranged from minimum wage, immigration policy, and the housing crisis affecting Californians. The panel was sponsored by **Gonzalez Strategic Affairs** and was part of the 'Fork in the Path' track, sponsored by **Clear Channel Outdoor** and the **Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation that aims to boost declining enrollment and address a shortage of college-educated workers in the state.

Assembly Bill 19 waives the first year of fees for any first-time student who enrolls full-time at one of 114 community colleges in the state.

Track Three, Panel One: **Breaking Ground**



California's growing housing crisis was the main topic of this panel moderated by Joseph Bernstein (**Sapphire**). California State Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra discussed recently enacted legislation aimed at easing restrictions on developers for the construction of new and affordable housing, although he noted that "politics is the art of compromise." The panel noted that current regulations, especially in Los Angeles, hinder rather than spur new development. The panel was sponsored by **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** and **Sapphire**. The panelists joining Bocanegra were Jennifer Hernandez (Holland & Knight), Megan Kirkeby (California Department of Housing and Community Development), and Dr. Nicholas Marantz (University of California, Irvine). This panel was part of the 'X Marks the Spot' track, which was sponsored by **Metro** and **Parsons**.

Track Three, Panel Two: **The Lost City of Angels**



Panelists from the transportation sector predicted the impact of new tax revenue and technological innovation on transforming mobility and how public transit agencies can harness these new tools. CEO Phil Washington (**Metro**) discussed how Measure M projects can be expedited in time for the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics, saying that "Metro is looking to provide a curb-to-curb service, like Uber, like Lyft, known as microtransit." Opportunities to mitigate the transportation sector's impact on the environment with new funds and technology was discussed by George Minter (**Southern California Gas Company**) and Rebecca Schenker (**BYD America**). Elissa Konove (**MetroLink**) talked about efforts to increase rail ridership and reduce congestion by improving partnerships with local transit providers. 'The Lost City of Angels' was moderated by David Warner (**Parsons**) and sponsored by **BYD America**. This

panel was part of the 'X Marks the Spot' track, sponsored by **Metro** and **Parsons**.

Track Four, Panel One: **Unearthing New Ways to Practice Medicine**



As healthcare becomes a bigger issue in California and the nation, our panelists discussed technological innovations and best practices for healthcare delivery, including wearable technology, virtual reality, and robotics during surgical procedures. Although technology is progressing, patients are reluctant that it will work. Dr. Spiegel revealed, "Cedars invited 86,000 patients to participate in using wearable technology, and only 0.7% participated." However, Dr. Rott noted that "By using wearables after a heart attack, there was a 30% decrease seen in the number of deaths." Moderator Carol Kim (**Health Net**) led a discussion with panelists Jeff Allport (**Valley Presbyterian Hospital**), Dr. Erik Dutson (**UCLA**), Dr. John Rott (**Kaiser Permanente**), and Dr. Brennan Spiegel (**Cedars-Sinai Health System**). 'Unearthing New Ways to Practice Medicine' was sponsored by the **Leavitt Group** and **Valley Presbyterian Hospital**. This panel was part of the track 'Finding the Treasure,' sponsored by **The Garland** and **Kaiser Permanente**.

Track Four, Panel Two: **Lights, Camera (Phone), Action!**



Los Angeles' most famous industry has an impact on our whole economy, and a panel moderated by Sarah Walsh (**Motion Picture Assoc. of America**) discussed what the future of filming looks like. Panelists Michelle Kempner

(Buzzfeed), Amy Lemisch (California Film Commission), Kevin James (City of Los Angeles) and Tom Lynch (Tom Lynch Company) noted the changes and abundance in content such as short 'webisodes' are transforming the industry. However, Tom Lynch noted, "Content is part of the global experience. Therefore, there is no such thing as too much content." They also discussed how the workforce pipeline has migrated from traditional film schools to self-study and on the job training. The panel was sponsored by AT&T and was part of the 'Finding the Treasure' track, sponsored by The Garland and Kaiser Permanente.

Member Messages: Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!

VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for \$50 per week or \$175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional \$5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.

ABOUT VICA

Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com.

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San Fernando Valley, California

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Sonnie Martinez <sonnie.martinez@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses](#)
[LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers](#)
[LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike](#)
[LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \\$25 million in attendance, but saved \\$10 million in wages](#)
[LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain](#)
[REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike; union president](#)
[REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks](#)
[NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday](#)
[LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations](#)
[LA DAILY NEWS: Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall](#)
[LAIST: LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers](#)
[LA TACO: 'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe](#)
[SCNG: Opinion: As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone](#)
[LA TIMES: Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council](#)
[FIVE THIRTY EIGHT: How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition](#)
[ASSOCIATED PRESS: Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago](#)
[THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend](#)

LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

“Very little in the way of educational activity,” Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. “At one point, they tried to show the movie ‘Christopher Robin,’ but the sound quality was so bad it couldn’t be understood. Couldn’t read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything.”

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. “We kept him home today,” she said of her son, “and probably will for the rest of the week.”

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers “heroes.”

“Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids’ side,” García said. “We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike.”

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

“As I’ve said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I’ll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this,” he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

“This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles,” said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of “looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We’ve got to change that.”

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad

in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with

the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve.”

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them “the unsung heroes of American democracy.”

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union’s goals made for a “righteous cause.”

Garcetti’s comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can’t antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because

the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and

librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and

infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." <https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president

of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times
With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodman, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodman, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st

Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,'" said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take

my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena if it's for emails, for witnesses, or if someone is a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group

As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone

By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest

services.”

The warrant also seeks “all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors” and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others “assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes.”

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, “the scandal is what’s legal.”

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used “straw donors” to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The “Committee for a Safer Los Angeles” was an entity called an “independent expenditure committee.” Garcetti’s adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was “barely aware” of it and had “nothing” to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of “behested payments,” unlimited contributions that are made at the “behest” of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has “behested” over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the “Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles,” and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the “Los Angeles Parks Foundation” at Garcetti’s request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price “behested” over \$245,000 for the “Coalition for Responsible Community Development,” which has a stated mission to “improve local planning.”

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he’d have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that’s about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for

three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really “cost-neutral” as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, “because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants.”

“It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on,” said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. “The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments,” Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an “inevitable” frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our “five corners” series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The “five corners” refers to what we claim are the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three

of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a

large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally go to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance. It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch #WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothevotes.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...



Cate Hurley | Communications
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Sonnie Martinez <sonnie.martinez@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 6:55 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[UNIVISION: Alcalde de Los Angeles promociona la ciudad para atraer el turismo mexicano \(VIDEO ONLY\)](#)

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Politico

'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight

By: Jeremy B. White

OAKLAND — The next big political fight over data privacy may center on an unlikely piece of technology: The scooters currently flying around streets and scattered on sidewalks in cities across the country.

And as always, it's brewing first in California, the state that last year enacted a landmark consumer privacy law that's roiling Silicon Valley and Washington policymakers.

In Los Angeles, a dispute over how the city manages data embedded in Uber-operated scooters has emerged as a leading-edge privacy issue, foreshadowing a debate over the government's role in managing sensitive data in a new era of connected transit.

City officials want granular location information on thousands of dockless scooters that are proliferating in the sprawling southern California metropolis. They say it's critical to know what's happening in their streets and ensure people are being served equitably.

But Uber's dockless vehicle company, JUMP, is pushing back, arguing that the scale of data Los Angeles wants poses a menace to personal privacy.

In a letter to Los Angeles Department of Transportation manager Seleta Reynolds, the company warned of "an unprecedented level of surveillance, oversight, and control that LADOT would wield over private companies and individual citizens." (Reynolds responded that those concerns were "uninformed, and therefore, falsely characterize" the situation.)

The clash opens another chapter in a long-running conflict between cities and mobility companies, like Uber, that previously sought to aggressively expand before getting official approval. Uber and Lyft have for years sparred with cities over access to what the companies consider valuable proprietary information.

Skeptics of Uber's motives note that companies already collect huge amounts of personal data, and not always with positive results: Uber reached a \$148 million settlement with California earlier this year over a massive breach of consumer information.

But Uber's letter hits on a larger concern about government's expanding role in tracking how people move around. Privacy advocates say that location data is especially sensitive given that it can reveal a person's movements and private transactions — all the more so given that dockless vehicles can take a person directly to or from their home or business.

"I think it's the big privacy issue of the next few years," said Joseph Jerome, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology's data and privacy project. "This sort of combination of private data in public hands is going to be a bigger and bigger issue, and when it's geolocation there are some particular questions."

Former Los Angeles Assemblyman Mike Gatto, who oversaw a nascent committee devoted to privacy, recounted Department of Motor Vehicles officials talking about persistent hacking attempts and police officers improperly accessing

state databases.

Gatto warned that when government agencies create public databases, "law enforcement has the ability to access it, and they will."

A LADOT spokesperson said the agency would share data with the Los Angeles Police Department only when presented with a warrant; the spokesperson did not answer questions about whether information can be revealed in a lawsuit or what restrictions LA imposes on sharing between city agencies.

The debate comes as cities contend with an explosion of scooters: pending applications would put roughly 40,000 more on LA's roads, according to LADOT chief sustainability officer Marcel Porras.

"We were looking to respond quickly to a new mobility that kind of landed on our streets without permission," he said.

Porras said it's critical for the city to have a clear view of a rapidly growing means of transit so they can stay on top of the swiftly changing situation on the ground and see if scooters end up "in the LA River."

City officials also want that data so they can ensure companies are abiding by promises to make the technology available to lower-income residents "in areas of the city where these types of private sector investments may not normally go to first," Porras said.

"We're telling companies that if they want to expand their fleet, you have to put more of these units in disadvantaged communities," Porras said.

Porras said city officials rigorously examined privacy implications and ultimately decided to classify the location information as confidential, meaning it's not subject to public records requests. He noted that the information LA is collecting does not include personal identifiers.

"We are collecting vehicle information, not information on riders," he said.

Los Angeles is widely seen as ahead of the curve on data practices. A representative for **Mayor Eric Garcetti** stressed that record and said the city strives to keep residents informed "as new technologies emerge."

"Scooter location is tracked in a transparent way that protects user privacy, and the city has a strong track record of improving systems through data while being sensitive to privacy concerns," spokeswoman Anna Bahr said in a release.

Such assurances, however, have met with skepticism from people who have observed the perils of how government agencies manage data.

"The data's only as good as its weakest link," Gatto said. "I do believe this is one of those issues that is at the tipping point," he added, noting "this gut feeling we all have which is 'this is creepy — why is government tracking every single move and storing the data?'"

The debate is unfurling as the state wrestles over the scope of the California Consumer Privacy Act, which emerged last year amid growing concerns about Big Tech's intrusiveness.

While Los Angeles says the law does not apply to data schema managed by government, the parallel developments demonstrate how data privacy is becoming a paramount consideration for policymakers — particularly the large and growing pool of information on where people are going in a world of increasingly sophisticated and connected transit.

"If you know where people work and pray and play you know a whole lot about them," Jerome said. "Our concern is [Los Angeles] is asking for a whole lot of data — more frequent and rigorous real-time data than companies collect and provide at the moment."

The issue isn't restricted to Los Angeles. In her capacity as an official in the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Reynolds has been sharing LA's data collection method as a possible model for other cities — an effort that transit experts said was gaining traction far beyond California.

She was among the NACTO officials last year touting a project called Shared Streets that lets private companies and public agencies share transit data. A NACTO representative declined to speak on the record, but the Shared Streets website has a section devoted to assuring that "incredibly sensitive" data would be anonymized.

Last December, a collection of chief data officers of American cities signed an open letter heralding the launch of dockless vehicles and arguing that cities getting their raw data was "essential for internal urban planning." They argued for "block-level aggregation" that would safeguard privacy and against sharing individual routes.

Hanging over the scooter debate is an intensifying race by major tech and auto companies to deploy autonomous vehicles at scale. Driverless cars traveled more than two million miles on California's public roads last year, according to the DMV, a fourfold increase from the prior year.

Those vehicles generate enormous amounts of data. As California and the federal government work to shape the rules that should govern their use, transportation experts said LA's foray into managing transportation data could offer a glimpse of what's to come.

"Scooters are sort of a test case for how transit agencies are going to manage data as you deploy more technology," Jerome said.

In LA, a city that's long been emblematic of personal car culture, city officials are bracing for seismic changes brought on by the confluence of shared ridership, autonomous vehicle technology and big data. A LADOT plan repeatedly underscores how the city will need to assert its authority.

"Control is a fundamental aspect of today's transportation network and will become even more critical in the future," the plan says, which will mean launching a "technology platform that enables our Department to actively manage the transportation network in ways we previously have not."

The report describes the implications in strikingly evocative terms, predicting that the "technical, political, and structural aspects of this change are momentous, but so is the human emotional one."

The word "privacy" does not appear in the document.

LA Times

Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

By: Howard Blume

Last year, the power of the local teachers union seemed to be on the wane while charter schools' prospects were rising. Los Angeles Board of Education members backed by charter supporters were in control, and they'd pushed through a new superintendent whose background had nothing to do with education.

On Tuesday, voters showed how quickly things can change.

Jackie Goldberg, the union-backed candidate, easily outpaced nine others on the ballot in a special election that could shift the balance on the school board — thanks in large part to public support cultivated during a six-day teachers' strike in January.

The 74-year-old veteran public official didn't quite get the majority needed to win the District 5 seat outright, but she claimed 48% of the vote, making her the strong favorite in a May 14 runoff against a second-place finisher who trailed her by 35 percentage points.

Goldberg, who served on the board for two terms until 1991, proclaimed herself part of a larger movement to bring more resources to education — and also to rein in charter schools.

"This is the beginning and not the end of putting together all those people who came together around the teachers' strike — not just here but in Oakland and the folks in Madera and the folks in Fresno that are all trying to make these things happen," Goldberg said. "People moved to California when I was young for our schools. And since then we have starved them, and we cannot continue starving them. This movement is about that."

It's not yet clear who Goldberg will face in the runoff, but it will either be Graciela Ortiz or Heather Repenning, who at last count were separated by 53 votes. Neither would be a clear-cut option for charter supporters. The candidate with the strongest pro-charter position, Allison Bajracharya, finished fifth.

Ortiz is a school counselor and a member of the Huntington Park City Council. Repenning is a former public works commissioner and longtime senior aide to L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**. Their order of finish will be settled by mail-in and provisional ballots. The vote count can continue as late as March 19.

A timely candidate

Goldberg's success was partly due to her own brand: She served on the school board, on the L.A. City Council and in the state Legislature; she's well-known and well-regarded by many.

But her success also was built on teacher activism, including last year's strikes in other states and this year's walkouts in

Los Angeles and Oakland. Union leaders in L.A. followed up their January strike by immediately launching a campaign that spent about \$660,000 on Goldberg's behalf. She also raised about \$200,000 for her own campaign — and she noted Tuesday night that she'd benefited from 1,300 small contributions and 800 volunteers.

Her activism goes way back to the UC Berkeley free speech movement of the mid-1960s — an era, she noted, in which students paid no tuition for their higher education. The state, she said, needs to find its way back to a deeper investment in its children.

Charter schools, too, would benefit from increased education funding, but charter advocates strongly — although quietly — opposed Goldberg. They worry about her calls for limiting the number of new charters and imposing more stringent regulations on them. (Both would require changes to state law.)

Goldberg aligns with those who say that privately operated charters — which compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that goes with them — are undermining public education. Charter backers counter that their schools have provided healthy competition and high-quality choices for families. About 1 in 5 local public school students now attend a charter — and wealthy pro-charter donors want further charter expansion.

Anti-charter themes were a regular refrain of striking teachers, and they seemed to strike a chord with people who may not previously have been familiar with the arguments.

A survey of L.A. Unified School District residents during and just after the strike found that about 3 in 4 said the focus should be on improving existing public schools rather than on alternatives such as charter schools, said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

Although the charter lobby remains powerful, it also suffered a setback at the state level last year, when it ran campaigns on behalf of candidates who lost the races for governor and the state superintendent of public instruction. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom — who has signaled his openness to more regulation of charter school — signed legislation that would compel charters to follow laws on public records and public meetings.

Money matters

Tuesday's outcome also marked a new direction in another way. In several previous elections, pro-charter funders outspent everyone — to good effect. In 2017, candidates they backed claimed their first-ever L.A. school board majority. And a charter school founder, Ref Rodriguez, became president of the board.

Rodriguez represented District 5 — the region on Tuesday's ballot, which takes in neighborhoods north of downtown and then cuts a narrow path east of downtown to the cities of southeast L.A. County. He was supposed to serve through 2020.

Two months after Rodriguez became board president, however, prosecutors charged him with political money laundering. He stepped down as president but remained on the board for nearly a year, just long enough to cast a crucial vote for hiring businessman Austin Beutner as superintendent.

Goldberg said she would have voted to hire an educator rather than Beutner, but she also said she would try to work with the superintendent.

Rodriguez resigned in July after pleading guilty to one felony and three misdemeanors. His crimes, his delay in leaving office and his willingness to cast important swing votes during that time did not sit well with some parents and voters.

For this week's primary, charter backers were never able to coalesce around an opponent to Goldberg. Bajracharya, an executive at a charter organization, had substantial support from charter allies but not the overwhelming sums provided by mega-donors in recent elections.

Four candidates raised enough money to get their message out: Goldberg, Bajracharya, Ortiz and Repenning. And each also had donors who funded independent campaigns on their behalf. The teachers union's spending on Goldberg was a relative bargain compared to what it spent in recent races — often in a losing cause.

But the biggest spender in the primary was Local 99 of Services Employees International Union, which represents most nonteaching district employees. It put nearly \$1 million into a campaign to elect Repenning, who also had the endorsement of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Part of Local 99's money paid for a misleading campaign against Goldberg, describing her as a career politician who is "always looking out for #1" and who favored prisons over schools, slashed education spending and presided over a failing school system.

Even if their campaign helped force a runoff, Repenning finished so far back that Local 99 now must ponder how much it

wants to continue fighting Goldberg, with whom the union previously has gotten along.

Many observers assumed that the pro-charter funders — organized under the group California Charter Schools Assn. Advocates — were simply holding their fire till the runoff. Goldberg's strong showing could affect that calculus.

A spokesman for CCSA Advocates declined to comment Wednesday.

Also covered by: [LA Magazine](#), [LA Daily News](#), [Eastsider LA](#)

LA Times

Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

To the editor: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to explore congestion pricing. This is a bad idea.

We cannot tax our way out of traffic any more than we can reduce the number of residents in and around Los Angeles, nor can most people change where they live or where they must travel to work.

Encouraging housing development along the various Metro routes is an option, but ultimately, we will never be able to overcome the challenges presented by the spread-out geography of greater Los Angeles.

If Los Angeles and other nearby cities really want to see traffic move more quickly, they should put significantly more effort and money into repairing our streets, which are in a shameful and dare I say dangerous state of disrepair.

Joe Grauman, Los Angeles

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To the editor: A single word appearing in the article explains everything. The word is "choice," and it implies that working people will make an informed decision about whether or not to pay an additional tax to get to work.

The only real choice would be to pay the tax or pay one's rent. The effect of congestion pricing will be to remove working poor people from the highway so the wealthy can relax.

If the Red Line subway went from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and all other rail lines were complete, there might be a bit of fairness to this proposal. But in this form, it is merely insulting.

Jon Hartmann, Los Angeles

..

To the editor: Metro wants to study a proposal to tax motorists and ride-share operators to the tune of \$580 million over a decade. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is quoted as saying, "This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue."

If that is true, then the Metro board members should read the L.A. Times' March 4 op-ed article, "We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence." They would learn the city of Hangzhou used artificial intelligence to decrease road congestion.

It's a shame there isn't this kind of intelligence, artificial or otherwise, at Metro.

Tom Keiser, Pasadena

Mercury News

Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

By: Casey Tolan

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo backed Sen. Kamala Harris for president Thursday, lending his support to a fellow former Bay Area prosecutor as her campaign rolled out endorsements from a slate of California mayors.

"Senator Harris stands head and shoulders above the current field in the ability to articulate a vision that can move America forward and a willingness to say what needs to be said," Liccardo told the Bay Area News Group in an interview. "She's been a great champion for California and for our values."

In Harris' latest move to consolidate home state support, she also announced endorsements from Mayors London Breed of San Francisco, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Robert Garcia of Long Beach and Aja Brown of Compton.

Harris' campaigns for office "paved the way for me and many women who have sought elected office in this state," Breed

said in a statement. "She is acutely aware of the work that needs to be done on behalf of this nation and is prepared to lead and lift up hard-working men and women across this nation."

The former state attorney general and San Francisco district attorney, Harris has already won the backing of elected officials up and down the California ballot, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, five members of Congress and a host of other state officers and legislators. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf also endorsed Harris at her campaign kick-off rally earlier this year.

The Golden State is expected to play an unusually important role this year due to its early spot on the calendar and its major delegate haul. Californians will go to the polls on March 3, just after the four traditional early states and on the same day as a more than a half-dozen other states including Texas, North Carolina and Virginia.

As of Thursday, Harris has the support of all the Democratic leaders of California's nine biggest cities except for **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, who publicly mused about a presidential bid before deciding not to run in January. He hasn't made a choice in the race.

The latest endorsements for Harris aren't exactly a surprise. Breed, who called the senator her "Bay Area sister," hosted a friendly San Francisco event for Harris' book tour earlier this year and attended her Oakland rally.

Liccardo, a former Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, said he was impressed by Harris' work with him and other mayors on under-the-radar issues like improving emergency warning systems. Harris will be the best candidate to balance progressive policies with appeals to moderate voters, he argued: "If this is just a contest to see who can race faster to the left, the Democratic Party will be headed for defeat in 2020."

Harris might not be the only Californian in the race for the White House: East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell is also considering a run, and spent this past weekend meeting activists across northeast Iowa, his 17th trip to the state since the beginning of 2017.

San Fernando Valley Business Journal

VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport

By: Mark Madler

The Aviation Committee of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association received an update Wednesday on efforts to allow public events in aircraft hangars at Van Nuys Airport.

Max Reyes, an economic policy manager in **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office, told the committee that the mayor's office has been working with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles World Airports, representatives from Councilwoman Nury Martinez's office and the Van Nuys Airport Association on the issue.

"We feel there has been progress," said Flora Margheritis, general manager of Van Nuys Airport.

Right now, a point of contention is about whether the large hangar doors will be considered emergency exits, Reyes said.

The issue of public events at the San Fernando Valley airfield came to the attention of airport tenants and VICA in December at a meeting of the airport association. Tenants were told of a city of Los Angeles administrative ruling that prohibits public events in hangars at Van Nuys Airport and warehouses across the city and that the Building and Safety Department would begin to enforce it.

A report is expected in the next week or two from the department and a proposed ordinance sponsored by Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee on March 19, Reyes said.

The proposed ordinance, introduced in December, instructs the L.A. Fire Department and Building and Safety Department to recommend a system to permit events at hangars.

"There is a pathway there and we are working on that," said Curt Castagna, who serves as president of the Van Nuys Airport Association

VICA has become involved with the issue as its executive committee in December passed a resolution in opposition to the event ban and calling for deferring implementation of the ban at Van Nuys and Los Angeles International airports for 180 days; creating standards for review and a permitting process; and making a clear distinction between hangars and warehouses.

Jewish Journal

Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism

By: Ryan Torok and Aaron Bandler

A mural in downtown Los Angeles depicting the Grim Reaper wrapped inside an American flag emblazoned with Jewish stars, gripping a baby, cradling a missile and surrounded by snakes, has been deemed anti-Semitic by several civic leaders and organizations, including Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office.

"This mural is a shameful act of anti-Semitism," Alex Comisar, a spokesman for Garcetti, said in a statement. "Imagery like this should have no place in our city."

The image, on the exterior wall of The Vortex, a performance and event space in an industrial downtown neighborhood, was first painted in 2011 by local artist Vyal Reyes as part of an art show titled, "LA vs. WAR." In 2018, Reyes said on his Instagram page that the work was inspired by a trip he took "to Palestine some years back."

However, the controversy didn't erupt until Feb. 25, when Zhenya Rozinskiy of boutique consulting firm Mirigos shared a photograph of the mural on his Facebook page and it went viral.

Among those condemning the mural was Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party. The group posted a picture of the mural on its Facebook page and tagged the Vortex, stating: "Hey The Vortex, Is this a real thing on your building? If yes, why? It's wildly anti-Semitic. If not, you should probably clear up the confusion. Signed, Some confused and concerned community members."

But in an email to the Journal, Reyes said he isn't anti-Semitic and that he intended the mural to be "critical of the U.S. and its increasing focus on war."

"That particular neighborhood that the mural was painted in was in worse shape at the time and homeless people lived all around there," Reyes said. "It seemed to me at the time that the U.S. was more into funding war than helping its homeless. Even at that time, the U.S. was funding massive amounts of money to Israel, as they still are. That's not anti-Semitic; that's just a fact."

Jeff Norman, a representative of the Vortex, also defended Reyes. "The Vortex stands for free expression," Norman said in an email to the Journal. "The artist whose mural includes the Star of David (created for the LA vs. WAR show to acknowledge 9/11 about 5-6 years ago) did not intend to express an anti-Semitic message. We believe his intent deserves considerable weight. We invite those who feel otherwise to paint another mural next to it. We are also open to hosting a public discussion about this controversy at The Vortex."

But on the night of Feb. 25 or the morning of Feb. 26, the words "No place for hate" were painted over the mural. While it's unclear who was responsible for defacing the mural, the artists' rights organization Artists 4 Israel sent a photograph of the defaced mural to their email list subscribers on Feb. 26.

When asked if his group was responsible for painting over the mural, Artists 4 Israel CEO Craig Dershowitz told the Journal that he did not have any comment, although he conceded that he was troubled by the mural's imagery.

As of press time, The Vortex had not made any effort to repair the mural or to notify the police about the defacement, Norman said.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League has called for the mural's removal.

"For a venue that purports to welcome the community, The Vortex should join us in condemning hateful imagery that invokes anti-Semitic canards conflating Jews with death, snakes, bombs and killing babies," the organization said in a statement.



Cate Hurley | Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)



Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Join StudyLA Tomorrow in Reflection & Celebration

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 5:03 PM

Reflection and Celebration: A Night to Remember

Join the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) at Loyola Marymount University **TOMORROW** for an evening 20 years in the making: Meaningful reflection on 25 years since the Los Angeles Civil Unrest of 1992, and the honoring of the 20th anniversary of StudyLA, the premier independent public opinion research center in and for Los Angeles.

Event Details

April 26, 2017

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Life Sciences Building

1 LMU Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking details below program

RSVP academics.lmu.edu/study/la/anniversary.

Program

We were there: Los Angeles in 1992

A conversation reflecting on the last 25 years in Los Angeles.

Warren Olney

Moderator

Warren Olney is a veteran broadcast journalist and the award-winning moderator of the radio program "Which Way, L.A.?"

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Panelist

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke serves on numerous federal, state, and local boards. She retired from the LA County Board of Supervisors in 2008 after serving for 17 years.

Angela Oh

Panelist

Angela Oh is an attorney, teacher, and public lecturer. She is widely respected for her role as a spokesperson for the Korean American community post-1992.

Monica Lozano

Panelist

Monica Lozano chairs the University of California Regents and the Aspen Institute's "Latinos and Society" program. She is the former publisher and editor of La Opinión.

We are here: Los Angeles in 2017

A conversation reflecting on the current state of Los Angeles and its future.

Larry Mantle

Moderator

Larry Mantle is the host of AirTalk, the longest continuously running daily talk program in the Los Angeles radio.

Ana Guerrero

Panelist

Ana Guerrero is chief of staff for city of Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti.

David Ryu

Panelist

David Ryu serves as councilman for Los Angeles City District 4. He is the first Korean-American to hold a council seat in LA.

Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Panelist

Marqueece Harris-Dawson serves as a councilman for Los Angeles City District 8.

Celebrating 20 years of StudyLA

A celebration of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Fernando J. Guerra

Host

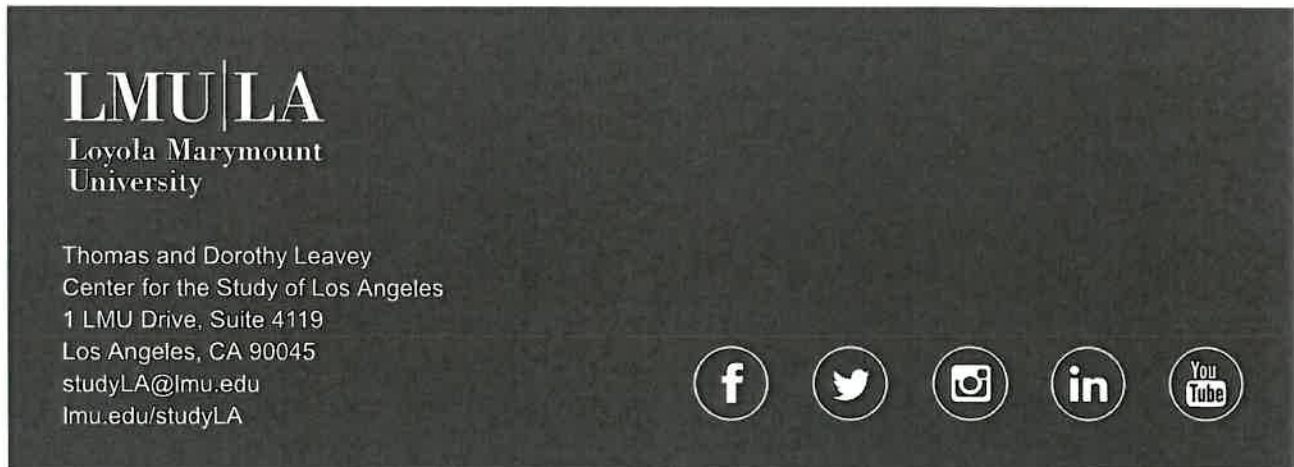
Fernando J. Guerra is the director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles and professor at Loyola Marymount University.

Parking Details

Please enter from the Lincoln Blvd. entrance and do not stop at the gate. The Loyola Blvd. entrance is not open to the public.

Drive to the Life Sciences Building (LSB) and park in the building's underground lot. A permit will be given to you by a lot attendant immediately before entering the LSB parking lot. All levels are available for parking for this special event. A detailed campus map can be [downloaded here](#).

We hope to see you there!



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1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA | 90045 US

This email was sent to ana.guerrero@lacity.org.

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Reminder: Latest News! ELAC Alumnus George L. Pla to Receive the Prestigious California Community College Distinguished Alumni Award for 2018

1 message

ELAC Foundation- Paul De La Cerda <delacep@elac.edu>

Sun, Sep 16, 2018 at 4:44 PM

Reply-To: info@elacfoundation.com

To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org



East Los Angeles College Alumnus, Successful Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist, George L. Pla to Receive the Prestigious California Community College Distinguished Alumni Award for 2018



East Los Angeles (CA)- Successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, and East Los Angeles College (ELAC) alumnus, George L. Pla has been selected to receive the prestigious California Community College Distinguished Alumni Award for 2018. An ELAC alumnus, Pla is President, CEO, and Founder of Cordoba Corp., a nationally recognized civil engineering, program, and construction management firm specializing in transportation, education, and water and energy infrastructure.

Pla's recent philanthropic and civic activities include serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Science Center where he chaired the planning and engineering efforts of Cordoba Corporation's historic transport of the Space Shuttle Endeavour and ET-94 fuel boosters through the streets of Los Angeles. He is a member and former Co-Chair of the Southern California Leadership Council, and served on the Board of Directors of the Catalina Island Conservancy, which stewards approximately 42,000 acres through a balance of conservation, environmental protection, and education.

He served as a Regent Emeritus at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and as a Presidential Associate at the University of Southern California (USC). He serves on the Board of Advisors for the Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at USC's Viterbi School of Engineering; the Board of Councilors for USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy; and the Program Advisory Committee for Stanford University's Construction Institute. In addition, Pla serves on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's External Leadership Advisory Council; President's Advisory Council at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA); the Development

Council for the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) at LMU; and the Board of Advisors for the Luskin School of Public Affairs at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

For his philanthropy and community service, Pla has been recognized by USC and CSULA as an Alumnus of the Year. In 2016, George was the recipient of the CSULA Joe Shapiro Humanitarian Award. In 2017, CSULA further honored George by presenting him with the Presidential Medallion. George L. Pla's civic and business achievements are featured in several books, including *Hispanic USA*, *Nine Nations of America*, *CEOs Speak Out*, *Eastside Landmark*, *Building Bridges of Understanding*, and *Change from the Inside: My Life, the Chicano Movement, and the Story of an Era*. He is a graduate of CSULA and holds a Masters of Public Administration degree from USC. He is also the co-author of the formative book on Latino politics, *Power Shift, How Latinos in California Transformed Politics in America*.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors for the ELAC Foundation and ELAC Alumni Association, it was a true honor to nominate Mr. Pla for this award and we congratulate him for this well deserved recognition. Mr. Pla is a stellar role model and friend to East Los Angeles College and our Foundation and we appreciate his continued generous support as a founding member of the ELAC Foundation President's Circle and supporter of our Transforming Lives Campaign and Rendon Family Legacy Fund. He is truly helping us transform our students lives at ELAC," said Paul De La Cerda, ELAC's Dean of Resource, Economic Development & Innovation and Executive Director of ELAC Foundation.

"It will be my distinct honor to recognize George in front of all my peers in the California Community College System at the Annual Community College League of California (CCLC) Convention this Fall. He is a true hero and success story that our students can look to as a testament that hard work, perseverance and education lead to accomplishments that make a difference in our local community and world," said Marvin Martinez, President of East Los Angeles College and 2018 Board President of Chief Executive Officers for California Community Colleges (CEOCCC).

For more information please visit CCLC at www.ccleague.org or ELAC Foundation at www.elacfoundation.com.

XXX

ABOUT EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE FOUNDATION

East Los Angeles College Foundation (ELACF) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Foundation's singular goal is to support the

programs and students of East Los Angeles College. The staff and volunteer Board of Directors embark upon advocacy, building community goodwill and promoting and elevating the College in fulfilling its mission and reaching its goals through marketing and advocacy, community and industry connections, and financial support. The Foundation strives to improve the quality, sustainability, and student involvement in many of the campus programs, such as Entrepreneurship, Logistics, Business Administration, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) and Advanced Manufacturing. Community college foundations statewide are expected to play a pivotal role in college advancement and social impact in the years to come and the ELAC Foundation is building social enterprise programs and capacity to lead that charge by launching the Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation's flagship program - ESTEC LA Incubator – Powered by OmniWorks. The program name "ESTEC LA" fuses the words Este "East" and Technology "Tec", which stands for the region and innovation coming together to create the next generation of entrepreneurial minds and small businesses in the STEM and high growth industry sectors. To learn more about the ELAC Foundation or ESTEC LA visit: www.elacfoundation.com or www.esteccla.com



Resource, Economic Development & Innovation Office | ELAC Foundation
Paul De La Cerda, MBA, Dean / Executive Director
Phone: 323-265-8901 | Email: delacep@elac.edu
www.elacfoundation.com

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Visit Our Website

East Los Angeles College Foundation | [1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez](https://www.elacfoundation.com), Monterey Park, CA 91754

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Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - April 10

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>

Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu

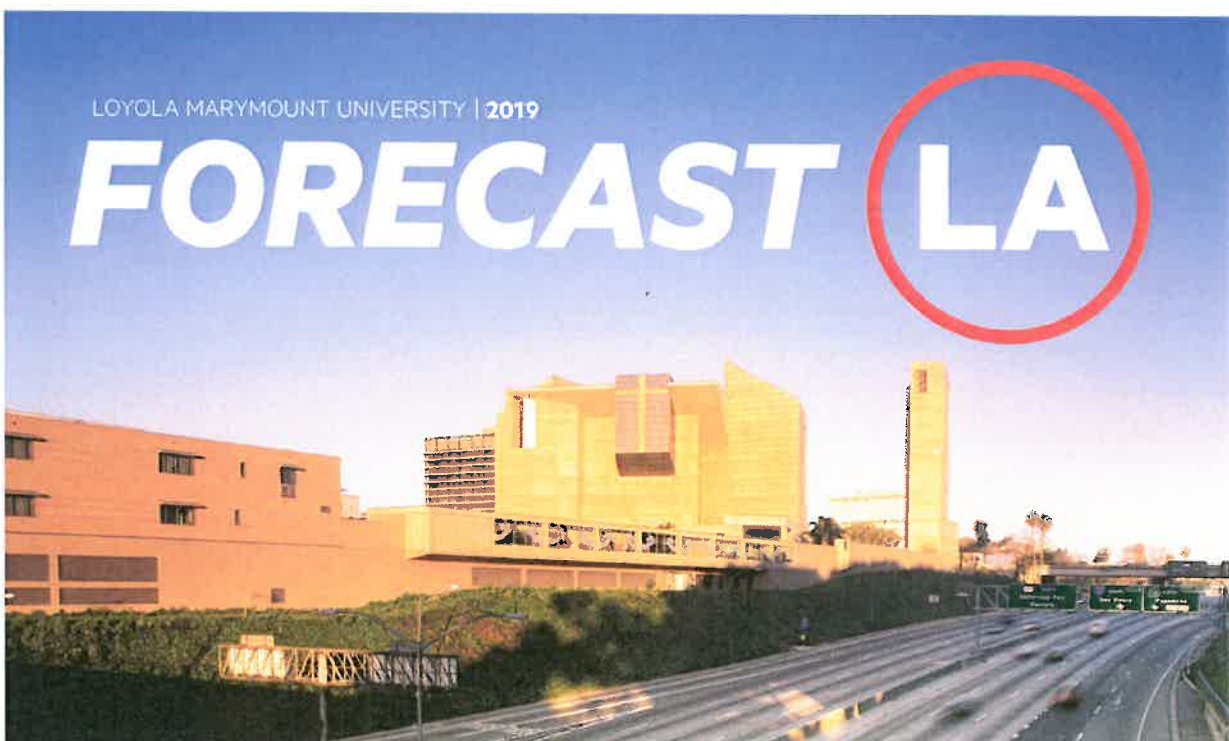
To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 4:25 PM



THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY
CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF LOS ANGELES
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

*Join us for our
6th Annual Forecast LA Conference
in Downtown Los Angeles!*



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

Downtown LA: The Central at Cathedral Plaza

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Easy, on-site, free parking

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

Use code "STUDYLA2019" for your complimentary registration.

Forecast LA is an annual conference that examines the opinions of residents and leaders in Los Angeles about the future of the region.

This event has been instrumental to civic, business, and community leaders alike, giving them valuable perspective on how our region thinks and feels, right now.

We hope you will join us.

This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).

LMU|LA
Loyola Marymount
University

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4119
Los Angeles, CA 90045
studyLA@lmu.edu
lmu.edu/studyLA



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1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA | 90045 US

This email was sent to ana.guerrero@lacity.org.
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

Join us as we kick off LA Plaza's 2017 programs!

1 message

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes <info@lapca.org>
Reply-To: LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes <info@lapca.org>
To: ana.guerrero@lacity.org

Thu, Jan 12, 2017 at 11:37 AM



[View this email in your browser](#)



January–February 2017

A Message from the CEO

Thank you for your continued support of LA Plaza during our fifth anniversary year in 2016. We were pleased to welcome more than 70,000 visitors during the year to an invigorating schedule of events, exhibitions and special programs that helped advance our mission of preserving and promoting Latino history, art and culture in Los Angeles. The past year also brought the start of construction of [LA Plaza Village](#) as an extension of our campus. This distinctive multi-use structure will include 355 apartments and more than 40,000 square feet of retail space. We're on schedule for completion in August 2018.

We'll continue that tradition this year with an exciting and educational menu of offerings that includes salsa and bolero concerts, exhibition openings, documentary films, outdoor screenings, discussions, family activities and much more throughout the year...

[Read more on LA Plaza's blog, La Voz!](#)

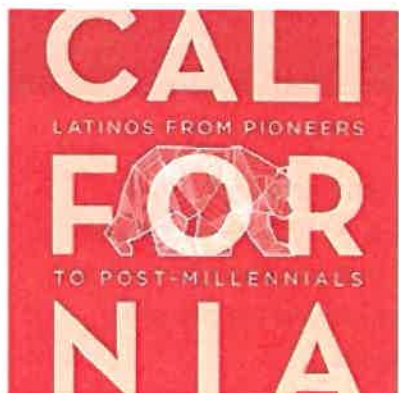


"There is a Time"

Thursday, February 2 | 7 pm | Free

A discussion and performance honoring the legendary Mexican choreographer José Limón. Students from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts will perform segments of Limón's classic masterpiece, *There is a Time*.

[Learn More >](#)



Plática

La Nueva California: Latinos from Pioneers to Post-Millennials

Thursday, February 9 | 7 pm | Free

Author Dr. David Hayes-Bautista of UCLA explores Latino identity and what it means to be American in excerpts from his latest book.

[Learn More >](#)



Plática

Chicano Homeland

Thursday, February 16 | 7pm | Free

Focusing on the Chicano movement at its epicenter in Los Angeles, author Louis R. Negrete brings to life the issues that triggered this wide-ranging Civil Rights movement.

[Learn More >](#)

EXHIBITIONS

Extended until February 21!

Espejismo/Cicatriz (Mirage/Scar): New Works by Ernesto Yerena Montejano

Ernesto Yerena Montejano, one of Los Angeles' most promising young Chicano artists, creates a collection of work inspired by Latino identities.



Exhibitions, performances, and educational programs at LA Plaza are supported by you!

DONATE TODAY!



Thank you! LA Plaza celebrates and gratefully acknowledges the philanthropic leadership of our Corporate Council partners whose investments provide enriching and innovative learning experiences for our community. **Líderes/Leaders** Aetna Foundation / Bank of America / PepsiCo / Walmart **Inovadores/Innovators** American Airlines / Parking Company of America / Southern California Gas Company / Wells Fargo **Campeones/Champions** Telemundo 52- Los Angeles / Union Bank

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Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Reminder Invite to Election Salon May 23rd

1 message

Samantha Martinez <smartinez@kindelgagan.com>

Mon, May 21, 2018 at 2:57 PM

Dear City Hall friends,

We would like to invite you to join us for a salon and panel discussion about the upcoming elections. This invitation is (perhaps the first) Ethics Commission-approved invitation to a lobbyist-sponsored event. Hope you can make it, notwithstanding the hefty fee!

Best, Sam

Samantha Martinez

Kindel Gagan

Public Affairs Advocacy

550 S. Hope Street, Suite 530

Los Angeles, CA 90071

(213) 624-1550 office

mobile

smartinez@kindelgagan.com



Election 2018 Salon City Employees.pdf

93K

Kindel Gagan invites you to

Election 2018

A salon for conversation and lunch with

Christina Bellantoni

Assistant Managing Editor (Politics)

Los Angeles Times

Fernando Guerra

*Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Loyola Marymount University*

Dan Schnur

*Professor, Annenberg School of Communications
University of Southern California*

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

11:30 – 1:00

At the Offices of Kindel Gagan

550 S. Hope Street, Suite 530

Los Angeles, CA 90071

To comply with City Ethics Rules, the charge for City Employees to attend this event is \$14.00.
Please bring cash or a check in that amount to the Salon.

To RSVP contact Jenelle Henderson at (213) 624-1550 or

Email jhenderson@kindelgagan.com

Alliance for A Better Community

Michele Siqueiros – Chair
President
The Campaign for College
Opportunity

Robert M. Sainz – Vice Chair
Assistant General Manager
City of Los Angeles
Economic and Workforce
Development Department

Ed Avila
President
Project Restore

Mercedes Cruz
Partner
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Fernando Guerra, Ph.D.
Director,
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Loyola Marymount University

Feliza I. Ortiz-Licon
Member
California State Board of Education

Darline P. Robles Ph.D
Professor of Clinical Education
Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California

Angela Sanbrano
President
National Alliance of Latin America
and Caribbean Communities
(NALACC)

Helen Torres
Executive Director and CEO
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph.D
Associate Dean
UCLA School of Public Policy
& Research

(213) 201-1121
1545 Wilshire Blvd Site 700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
www.afabc.org

May 22, 2018

The Honorable
Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

The Alliance for a Better Community, a policy and advocacy organization committed to promoting the economic prosperity of the Latino community and the Los Angeles region through improved education, health and civic participation, is pleased to endorse LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos as Los Angeles' new chief of police.

Although we believe that all three final candidates possess the experience and expertise to qualify for the post, it is Chief Deputy Arcos who was raised in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Atwater, is a graduate of local public schools, a military veteran and a LAPD police officer of over 30 years who possesses the passion, emotional intelligence and credibility to lead the third largest police department in the nation.

Further, throughout his career Deputy Chief Arcos has served in some of Los Angeles' most culturally and economically diverse communities. He has a proven track record of professionalism and leadership in fighting city-wide violent crime and gang activity as well as experience in administrative operations and the department's community building efforts.

We are confident that Deputy Chief Arcos, will build upon his strong reputation as a leader to expand the department's community policing initiatives, strengthen police training, increase the number of patrol officers, and will hold himself and the department accountable for treating communities of color with the respect and dignity they deserve.

As the first Latino Chief of Police, the selection of Chief Deputy Arcos will be a monumental moment in our city's history. A moment when for the first time ever the top law enforcement officer is reflective of the city's largest ethnic group. An appointment such as this is an acknowledgement of the city's historical roots, the struggle of the Latino community to attain equal rights, and the ongoing contributions of the Latino community to our city's present and future.

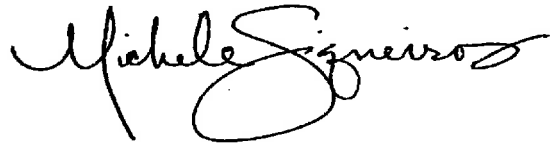
Your decision in this matter is vital to every Angeleno. As history has taught us, Los Angeles police culture and practice can either contribute to the city's safety and prosperity or can lead us down the dark road of mistrust and violence. It is with full confidence that we endorse Deputy Chief Robert Arcos as the candidate who will build upon and accelerate the critical reforms we have seen over the past years to ensure our city's safety and prosperity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nadia Funn
Executive Director



Michele Siqueiros
Chair, Board of Directors

CC

Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember David E. Ryu
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr.
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember Mitchell Englander
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Joe Buscain
Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff for Mayor Garcetti

We Support Deputy Chief Bob Arcos to be the next Los Angeles Chief of Police
Updated 5/25/18 A

Los Angeles Councilmember Gil Cedillo, First District
Los Angeles Councilwoman Nury Martinez, Sixth District
Los Angeles Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, Seventh District
Los Angeles Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Thirteenth District
Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar, Fourteenth District
Los Angeles Councilmember Richard Alatorre, Fourteenth District, Retired
Los Angeles Councilmember Gloria Molina, First District, Retired
Los Angeles Councilmember Ed Reyes, First District, Retired
Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Hernandez, First District, Retired
Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
Steve F. Veres, Member, Board of Trustees, Los Angeles Community College District
Rocky Delgadillo, Los Angeles City Attorney, Retired
Phil Reyes, Former, Mayor, Duarte

Alliance for a Better Community
Javier Angulo, HonorPac
Lupe Arriola, Chair, Eastside Arts Initiative Council
Ed Avila, Project Restore
Castulo de la Rocha, President and Chief Executive Officer, AltaMed
Lou Calanche, Executive Director, Legacy LA
Stephen Chavez, President, Chavez Communications
David Allan Cruz, Retired
Mercedes Cruz, Partner, Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
Suzi Dunkel, Alhambra Planning Commission
Elia Esparza, Writer, PR Executive
Patricia Franco, Business Owner
Victor M. Franco Sr., Member, Eastside Arts Initiative Council, Public Relations Consultant
Pete Gomez, BD. Member, USHMC
Fernando Guerra, Ph.D., Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University
Bel Hernandez, Publisher, CEO, Latin Heat media
Dennis Hernandez, Tax, Attorney
Felix Hernandez, Real Estate Broker Albert Juarez, Professor, LACC, PCC
Irene Huerta, Wilmington
Johnny Lucio, Chatsworth
Stephenie Lucio, Chatsworth
Ruben Maciel, President, SLGroup
Jose Marquez, Banking Executive
Henry Mendoza, Professor, CSUF
Carlos Miramontes

Feliza I. Ortiz-Licon, Member, California State Board of Education
Michelle Pinedo, Los Angeles
Darlene Robles Ph. D Professor of Clinical Education, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California
Juan Rodriguez, Los Angeles
Diana Rubio, First 5 LA
Maria Salinas, President, Salinas Accounting, Founder, HOPE
Raul Salinas, Attorney
Chamba Sanchez
Felix Sanchez
Helen Sanchez, President Sanchez and Associates
Angela Sanbrano, President, National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities, (NALACC)
Cindy Santana, Mission Hills
Nilza Serrano, Eagle Rock
Michele Siqueiros, President, The Campaign for College Opportunity
Robert Soto
Eliseo Tenorio
Helen Torres, Executive Director and CEO, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph. D, Associate Dean, UCLA School of Public Policy & Research
Vincent Ybarra, Professor, LACC
Richard Zaldivar, Executive Director/Founder, The Wall Las Memorias Project



Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Fwd: Mayor favor

3 messages

Guerra, Fernando <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 8:14 AM

Thanks. The video can be sent directly to Grace Yao whose contact info is below.

Sent from my Dr. Fernando Guerra iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Yao, Grace" <Grace.Yao@lmu.edu>
Date: February 5, 2019 at 10:43:56 AM PST
To: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>
Subject: Mayor favor

Hey Fernando,

The university is putting together a birthday video for Tim for his upcoming 60th birthday. Marcomm is asking if we can get the Mayor to record a brief video (can be a selfie) and send it to us for inclusion. This video would not be public and would be for Tim only (but also shown at the Board of Trustees meeting). Won't be on LMU's website or anything like that. Can you ask Ana if we can get the Mayor to submit a short video to us for this?

The video should be short and just have him responding (direct into camera – filmed horizontally) to the following prompts:

- Please wish Tim (or President Snyder) a Happy Birthday.
- What three words would you use to describe Tim?
- What advice would you give to Tim about turning 60?

Grace Yao

Director of Public Affairs



University [Hall 2800](#)
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
www.lmu.edu | [Privacy](#) + [Legal](#)

Office 310.258.4342

Email gyao@lmu.edu



Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
To: Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org>, Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 9:49 AM



Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 922-9739
Website: lamayor.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org>
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 9:51 AM



Mary Hodge
Chief of Operations
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
mary.hodge@lacity.org

[Quoted text hidden]



Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?](#)

LA Daily News

Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised \$2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving \$1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign

of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.



Cate Hurley | Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Fri, Jan 27, 2017 at 5:16 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, Frank Bush
<frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara
<karen.penara@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Lynette Amerian <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio
<ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Mayor Eric Garcetti wants to bring more tech jobs to Los Angeles

<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/01/26/tech/la-could-be-next-tech-hub-says-mayor>

10,000 Job Seekers Expected At LA Technology Job Fair

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/01/26/10000-job-seekers-expected-at-la-technology-job-fair/>

LA's largest tech industry job fair held downtown

<http://dailytrojan.com/2017/01/26/las-largest-tech-industry-job-fair-held-downtown/>

TechFair Los Angeles is matching Angelenos with new jobs

<https://www.timeout.com/los-angeles/blog/techfair-los-angeles-is-matching-angelenos-with-new-jobs-012617>

Robertson Boulevard retailers caught in parking politics fray

<http://www.latimes.com/fashion/la-ig-wwd-robertson-boulevard-parking-politics-20170126-story.html>

Los Angeles Mayor Vows To Work With Trump But Stand Up For City's Residents

<http://www.npr.org/2017/01/27/511942813/los-angeles-mayor-vows-to-work-with-trump-but-stand-up-for-citys-residents>

Less Than A Week In, California Making Good On Vow To Fight Trump

<http://cal.streetsblog.org/2017/01/26/less-than-a-week-in-california-making-good-on-vow-to-fight-trump/>

Sanctuary Cities Just The Start Of Mayors' Opposition To Trump

<http://www.governing.com/topics/urban/gov-trump-sanctuary-cities-mayors.html>

Big city mayors confident they'll remain sanctuaries

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/26/politics/donald-trump-sanctuary-cities/>

California leaders prepare to defend against Trump orders on immigration, sanctuary cities

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/01/25/68456/california-reacts-to-trump-s-latest-moves-on-immig/>

California Today: Taking On Trump Over Sanctuary Cities (LINK ONLY)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/26/us/california-today-sanctuary-cities-trump.html>

LADOT Releases Vision Zero Action Plan

<http://la.streetsblog.org/2017/01/26/ladot-releases-vision-zero-action-plan/>

Millennial Myths About Market Magic (When It Comes To Measure S)

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles/12507-millennial-myths-about-market-magic-when-it-comes-to-measure-s>

The Price Is Right For The Ninth! Say What?

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/la-watchdog/12511-the-price-is-right-for-the-ninth-say-what>

Are LA Homes Falling Into A Financial Sink Hole?

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles/12515-are-la-homes-falling-into-a-financial-sink-hole>

Metro picks controversial contractor to build the next phase of the Westside Purple Line

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-metro-purple-line-20170126-story.html>

Mayor Eric Garcetti To Speak At UCLA Extension's 31st Annual Land Use Law And Planning Conference In DTLA

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/mayor-eric-garcetti-speak-ugla-222541923.html>

Los Angeles Traffic Is Nation's Deadliest

<http://patch.com/california/hollywood/los-angeles-traffic-nations-deadliest>

Marketplace.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti wants to bring more tech jobs to Los Angeles

By Adriene Hill

One of the centerpieces of President Donald Trump's campaign was a call for the return of manufacturing jobs to the U.S. But a survey out this week from Glassdoor looking at the best jobs of 2017 highlights tech jobs more prominently than manufacturing.

"The top five jobs in America this year are No. 1, data scientist," said Andrew Chamberlain, Glassdoor's chief economist. "No. 2 is dev ops engineer. No. 3 is data engineer. No. 4 is tax manager and No. 5 is an analytics manager."

"When politicians talk about manufacturing jobs, they're playing on people's nostalgia, but the reality today is that manufacturing is a very small part of the overall labor market," Chamberlain said. "Instead, the future is looking more like skilled services, tech, health care, professional services — jobs that are difficult to automate and jobs that require some creativity and some flexibility. Things that are eminently human."

The city of Los Angeles is holding a tech fair today, touting its startups and its tech-savvy workforce. Marketplace's Adriene Hill talked to Mayor Eric Garcetti and asked him why making Los Angeles a tech hub is a priority. Below is an edited transcript of their conversation.

Eric Garcetti: You know, I think that we see this economy changing so rapidly, and we need to be able to find where jobs will be growing in the next 25 years for the next generation of workers. To me it's very clear that technology is one of those areas that will continue to expand. And L.A. is uniquely poised, because we aren't just about digital technology. We're about transportation technology, we're about energy technology, we're about Hollywood and entertainment technology. It's important for our economic prosperity and also for us to find this range of jobs, some of which will require, you know, doctorates and master's degrees, but also a lot that can be given to folks who can have a middle class living without even having a college degree, as programmers or some of the professionals that can fuel tech companies' growth.

Adriene Hill: What are the revenue implications of all that growth for the city itself?

Garcetti: You know, in the old days people would say to a mayor, "Get me a Fortune 500 headquarters and you might get a thousand jobs out of that." But I focused on companies like Riot Games, game company that a few years ago didn't exist, a couple of USC grads founded it. They have 3,500 employees and are poised to probably add another couple thousand more. That's where growth is and that's where revenues then come. These are people who live, shop, pay taxes in your city, become the base of a new middle class. And to many of our cities, we've seen the creative class doing well, a service class balloon at the bottom, but that middle class that used to work in a factory or do something, maybe without a college degree, is quickly disappearing. I think infrastructure jobs, together with these tech jobs, can be that middle class source for so many and give us the revenues to make a prosperous and safe and livable city for decades to come.

Hill: As a mayor, what are your other priorities going forward when it comes to this tech sector in L.A.?

Garcetti: You know, for me I want to make Los Angeles, the tech sector, be the most diverse there is in the world. I want the next Mark Zuckerberg to be an African-American girl growing up in South L.A. or a Latino boy who's in the east side of our city.

Hill: How do you change the face of tech workers? It's something the industry has struggled with for a long time in that it's a white male industry in large part. How do you as a mayor affect that?

Garcetti: You have to be very intentional and hold those gatherings where people can network, connect mentors and mentees. Where students of color are concerned, you have to go where they are. So you have to lay those seeds down very early. You can't just suddenly look at your workforce and say, "Hey get me some black engineers, I need more women programmers." You actually have to think about that years ahead of time, and we've brought tech companies in and challenged them and say, "Look, we know you will continue to get great people who want to work in the summertime at YouTube. Why not get them from a neighborhood very close by, right here in this city?" And they've responded very well, and we've seen that grow by hundreds of jobs each year.

CBS Los Angeles

10,000 Job Seekers Expected At LA Technology Job Fair

Recruiters from 250 technology firms will be ready to accept resumes from some 10,000 job seekers at what is being billed as the biggest job fair in Los Angeles Thursday.

TechFair LA will open at 11 a.m. and run through 8 p.m. at The REEF, an exhibition space in downtown L.A.

Some 10,000 people have registered to attend the free event, and more than 250 companies are exhibiting, including Snapchat, Tinder, Dollar Shave Club, Tesla, Riot Games, the Honest Co. and companies not based in Southern California, like YouTube, Airbnb and Uber.

The event will underscore the growing heft of the Los Angeles tech community, which has been eclipsed by the San Francisco Bay Area — home to Apple, Facebook, Google, Intel and other tech powerhouses.

Besides an array of engineer jobs, tech firms also have many other openings in Los Angeles, Nazar said, including

product design, marketing and sales, administration and senior management roles.

Jason Nazar, the CEO of Comparably, which monitors the job market, is staging the fair, along with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who was designated the event's host and who will deliver a keynote address at 5:45 p.m.

Daily Trojans

LA's largest tech industry job fair held downtown

By Judy Cai

Outside The Reef in downtown Los Angeles, a line of blazer-clad, resume-toting men and women circled around building corners. Inside, a flurry of conversation emanated from jobseekers and employers interacting between brightly lit stalls. They were participants in TechFair LA, the biggest tech industry job fair held in Los Angeles on Thursday.

USC was an academic institution partner with the event.

Hoping to tap into an energetic and lucrative industry, 10,000 attendants registered for yesterday's fair.

The event featured well-established companies as well as start-ups, and it's these newly formed organizations that Dave Belasco, the co-director of the USC Lloyd Greif Center and an event speaker, said are most engaging.

"Entrepreneurship is a contact sport, it's an all-consuming activity," Belasco said. "It keeps you up at night; you think about whether you can make the payroll, whether you'll raise enough money to get to the next stepping stone. You have to be comfortable with uncertainty and embrace failure."

The idea for the fair originated from Jason Nazar, the co-founder and CEO of Comparably and the entrepreneur in residence for the City of Los Angeles. Nazar collaborated with Mayor Eric Garcetti to organize the nine-hour event, which attracted the participation of more than 250 companies, including YouTube, the Los Angeles Times and Tesla.

"The hard skills companies look for are centered around engineering, product design and performance marketing," Nazar said. "The soft skills are [being] passionate, driven, hard-working."

Although Silicon Valley has long been the epicenter for tech companies, Los Angeles has evolved its own tech ecosystem in recent years with startups like social media giant Snapchat and dating app Tinder. Both companies boast valuations in the billions.

Josh Brooks, the senior vice president of marketing at game developer Jam City, said that Los Angeles provides a favorable environment for startups to germinate revenue and recognition.

"In the last 10 years, the L.A. tech scene has gone from 'something' to 'something really impressive,'" Brooks said. "That's happened for a number of reasons: There are great schools like USC and UCLA focused on digital technology, there's a significant amount of venture capitalist money here and you also have human capital."

Ben Baysinger shares the view that human capital is abundant in Los Angeles. His company depends on it. He's president and co-founder of HighRscout, a data science company that helps veterans start careers.

"There's a huge pool of individuals with a wealth of experience here," Baysinger said. "But sometimes, it can be difficult for companies to see how applicants could be a fit for them. So we're hoping to expand networks and make that easier."

According to Chris DeWolfe, the CEO of Jam City, the journey of envisioning a product and transforming it into reality can be tumultuous for aspiring entrepreneurs.

DeWolfe is familiar with embracing failure. He founded the social networking platform MySpace in 2003. While the website gained momentum for a few years, its popularity diminished greatly following the arrival of Facebook. After bouncing back from MySpace's decline, DeWolfe went on to found SGN (now known as Jam City) in 2010.

"Passion's gotta be there," DeWolfe said. "While the tech industry can't promise career stability, [it] can guarantee dynamism. And for some individuals, that's what they need."

Timeout

TechFair Los Angeles is matching Angelenos with new jobs

You don't need to move to Silicon Valley to have a career in technology, at least if the 250 local companies presenting at today's TechFair Los Angeles are to be believed. Mayor Eric Garcetti's office is hosting the Downtown fair with a goal of matching up companies like Uber, Tesla, Tinder and Snap to meet with local talent. Over 13,000 people registered in advance to walk through the free event.

"There have been big events before, Jason Nazar, the CEO of Comparably and one of the fair's organizers, told USA Today, "but never one where the average person can walk in the door and directly meet the top execs from the companies."

The Bay Area has dominated the tech industry scene in California and worldwide for years, but Los Angeles is rapidly gaining. Our region is currently ranked second in high-tech employment, driven in particular by the headquarters of giants like Snapchat and Disney's Maker Studios. Huge growth in the largely SoCal-based video game industry is also a factor. Nationally, L.A. ranks third after San Francisco and New York in tech jobs, but city leaders are hoping that events like TechFair Los Angeles will help narrow the gap. Mayor Garcetti has stated a goal to meet or exceed New York's tech sector by the end of 2017.

TechFair Los Angeles takes place January 26 from 11am to 8pm at Magic Box at the REEF, 1933 S Broadway.

LA Times

Robertson Boulevard retailers caught in parking politics fray

By Kari Hamanaka

ing and politics aren't mixing well for Robertson Boulevard businesses, leaving some to question whether retailers have

become parking in the lead up to the city's election elections.

The recently opened campaign headquarters on Robertson Boulevard of Jesse Creed, who is running against incumbent Paul Koretz for a chance to represent the fifth district on the Los Angeles City Council, was followed with a surprise for the street's other tenants: the removal of a two-hour free parking garage program some allege was taken away to stop Creed's volunteers from using it.

Free parking is gold in Los Angeles, where gridlock and circling blocks to find an open metered spot is factored into all commute times. For Robertson Boulevard, it's perhaps even more critical as some hope for a revival of the occupancy-challenged street. Offering the first two hours free in the structure — a common carrot in places such as Beverly Hills or Santa Monica — is seen as a way to woo people to the street.

"Free parking on Robertson is imperative to the success of the street and small business owners like us especially," said Alissa Jacob, the cofounder and ceo of the multibrand concept shop Reservoir. "We are competing with Beverly Hills' free parking and have many customers who are incentivized to come here only if there's available free parking for a portion of their time on the street. The street is really suffering, with many more homeless people than ever, and if the city doesn't do something now to help businesses, then this street will continue to suffer and more businesses will shut down or relocate."

At issue is what the city of Los Angeles calls lot 703, the parking garage it owns at 123 S. Robertson Boulevard. Between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15, the structure offered the first two hours of parking free. Business owners reported anecdotally a lift in foot traffic and sales during that time.

A two-week free parking program was approved for the holiday via a council motion, a Los Angeles Department of Transportation spokesman said. The motion was done as an incentive for holiday shoppers and will not be coming back, the spokesman also confirmed.

That's a different story than what was told to Fraser Ross, the founder of Kitson and owner of the new boutique concept Kitross on Robertson Boulevard. Ross has attempted to work with the city since May beginning with Manav Kumar, deputy counsel to Mayor Eric Garcetti, before being shuttled to Garcetti's senior director, William Chun. He was passed on to the office of councilman Paul Koretz, who oversees the fifth district where Robertson is located, and has since been working with John Darnell, district director for Koretz.

Darnell, according to Ross, said at the onset the free parking would be extended every two weeks before swinging to full-time in March. Ross had a free parking sign made after he said he was told the city couldn't afford to make such signage. "Why do I have to make signs for the city? I've got enough to do. I have to pick up the garbage, get the tree [on the sidewalk] trimmed, get the phone booth [on the sidewalk] down. When was the last time Paul [Koretz] has walked the streets of Robertson to see the problems first hand?" Ross said.

Darnell, Koretz and Koretz's spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment.

The sign's lettering was slashed, by an unknown party, last week with the end of the free parking program.

"It looked like we possibly had his [Koretz's] attention, but since Creed's office [opening], I'm having difficulty talking to his office," said one merchant on the street, requesting anonymity.

Ross on Monday started a petition to bring the free parking back and expects to get to 1,000 within a week. He also, per his style, dressed his store's window with a hard-to-miss statement accusing Koretz of taking away the parking. "Pay for play. All talk, no action," part of the window reads.

Creed, the incumbent running against Koretz for the council, said he moved onto the street because he had seen the thoroughfare languish and took up the space as a statement of what he said was solidarity with the other business owners. He called the sequence of events — free parking available when his headquarters moved in Jan. 1 and then no free parking Jan. 15 — "suspicious." One other observation since his move onto the street few would argue with: "The merchants here are desperate for help," Creed said.

"There's no ownership and Mayor Garcetti and Paul Koretz were down at the march on Saturday and they're saying stand up for your rights and fight the fight. Well, we're fighting the fight against you [politicians]," Ross said, pointing to American Apparel, BCBG Max Azria Group, The Limited and other retailers shuttering doors. "I mean, come on. You can see there's a problem in this brick-and-mortar retail business. You've got to invite people to stores and make common areas again." Instead, what people see are empty and sometimes dirty storefronts, some of that city-owned real estate.

Bob Esho, the owner of the optical and sunglass store Optx, has been on the street for some 15 years. He previously occupied the storefront, owned by the city, located next to the city-owned parking garage. He shared the space with a doctor who decided he wanted to exit Robertson in 2015. Esho said he asked if the city could re-write the lease, removing the doctor from the contract, and was told no one was available to redo the paperwork. He closed in July 2015 and inked a lease across the street a few months later at a building owned by a private individual.

Nathan Sager, who owns Sager French Salon, has expressed interest in leasing Esho's previous space on Robertson. It would have been a homecoming of sorts, with Sager French on the street for 17 years before relocating to Beverly Hills after losing its lease when the building underwent major renovations. Sager was told by Darnell he would have to apply for the space via a request for proposal process through the Department of Transportation.

The city expected the RFP to post by mid-August, according to e-mails between Darnell, Chun and parking and LADOT analyst Rene Sagles. Darnell followed up with Sagles in November, at which time he was told the RFP would be released the first week of December. On Dec. 2, a follow-up e-mail between Darnell and Sagles indicated what Sagles called a "small setback we need to resolve" and that the RFP would be out the following week. The RFP has not yet been posted. "I don't understand it," Esho said. "Why wouldn't you lease the space and have a tenant there paying.... There's no accountability. Who are you going to hold accountable for it? They will blame each other [at the city]."

And even as lease deals get inked, merchandising of the street's tenants needs to be done with a more careful eye, Sager added, factoring in services and lessons learned from the street's past boom and then bust.

The streets lost so much of the retail and we understand that you cannot support retail without services," Sager said. It didn't help that big brands — Chanel, Ralph Lauren and Lululemon, among others — moved in years ago, boosted rents and later left with the recession and rise of competing streets offering cheaper prices. It wasn't good for real estate and it wasn't good for a street aimed at trendsetters and neighborhood shoppers, some would say. "These people [big brands] don't really look at recessions," Sager said. "These people have an agency that is looking for them and what is the hottest location. None of these owners stand on the street and see what people are walking them. They have location scouters."

"I've been here for 20 years. This street, I've never seen it so bad," said Sylvia Diaz, owner of the restaurant Cuvée. "Any little thing we can get that would increase our business, I'm shocked that the city doesn't get it."

Diaz said longtime customers come in and regularly ask her what happened to the street, referencing the heyday when celebrities shopped there and tour buses rolled through. Today, she's contemplating whether she should relocate following a rough six months capped by a November and December that were the worst months the business has had during its run on the street.

"It's never been this bad," she said. "I'm working harder. I'm trying to come up with new ways of drawing in business and it's hard. I've never had to cut [employee] hours before. These employees of mine, it really breaks my heart."

NPR

Los Angeles Mayor Vows To Work With Trump But Stand Up For City's Residents

David Greene speaks with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who says he's willing to work with the Trump administration, but says he will "stand up" for the people of Los Angeles if needed.

Streetsblog

Less Than A Week In, California Making Good On Vow To Fight Trump

By Damien Newton

Over a million people marched last Sunday at women's rallies in the Bay Area and Los Angeles, to say nothing of the dozens of other rallies across the states.

Governor Jerry Brown uses his State of the State to vow a legal fight if Washington, D.C. tries to roll back California's stand on clean cars.

Shortly after the President signed an executive order threatening federal funds to "sanctuary cities," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti released a statement not backing down on the city's commitment to protecting all of its residents, even its undocumented ones. Mayor Lee of San Francisco and other Bay Area leaders made similar declarations.

The statements echo an op/ed written by Streetsblog Editor-in-Chief Benjamin Fried who, days after the November election, urged New York's leaders not to cut deals for federal funds that come with strings attached that undermine progressive values on immigration.

So far, California's people and elected leaders are talking the talk. But the threat of withholding federal funds to governments that refuse to actively support the president's positions on immigration is designed to weaken those bonds over time.

It was only two days ago that Garcetti thundered, "Splitting up families and cutting funding to any city — especially Los Angeles, where 40 percent of the nation's goods enter the U.S. at our port, and more than 80 million passengers traveled through our airport last year — puts the personal safety and economic health of our entire nation at risk." But just yesterday another statement from the Mayor's Office celebrated a \$30 million federal "Promise Neighborhood Grant" for educational and community-based services to help low-income children and families.

What happens if the federal government withholds that grant until the LAPD agrees to engage in deportation activities? How about if Trump threatens to undermine the city's Olympic 2024 bid? Or when it threatens to withhold funding for the Purple Line extension?

Similarly, the federal government has many obligations to California—the state hopes to secure billions more for California High Speed Rail, for example. Garcetti, Lee, Brown and their successors will be tested. There are many legal opinions from around the country stating that Trump's executive order is more bluster than substance, but even so, funding for crucial projects could be held up for years as the courts work things out. Even then, given the makeup of the Supreme Court, legal precedents can change.

The idea of holding federal dollars hostage over disagreements on immigration enforcement is, at best, a plan to divide residents from their leaders and citizens from new immigrants.

The battle over the EPA and Climate Change is off to a less-fierce start, but it could turn into a major battle over the right of states to regulate the environment within their borders. The target would likely be California's decades-old fuel-efficiency standards or the more recent "clean car" standards. The federal government has rarely challenged California's laws, but Brown is still gearing up for a fight.

So when it comes to being the beachhead for resistance against scary changes to our national laws on Climate Change and Immigration, so far California is holding to its promises.

But this is just the first week. There are, at least, 207 to go.

Governing

Sanctuary Cities Just The Start Of Mayors' Opposition To Trump

By Allen Greenblatt

Greg Fischer did a lot of business with the Obama administration. The Louisville mayor got White House help in modernizing the city's police force, connecting residents to technology jobs and implementing programs aimed at helping minority youth, among other efforts. As late as December, Louisville received a \$29.5 million federal Neighborhood Choice grant, which the mayor hopes to leverage into \$200 million worth of redevelopment.

All this collaboration led Fischer to fly to Washington at least once every other month. And that wasn't at all unusual for a big-city mayor over the last eight years.

"The Obama White House worked very closely with different mayors in a lot of different ways," Fischer says.

Now with a new administration in power, Fischer, like a lot of his urban counterparts, is wondering if he should find some other way to spend his frequent flier miles. President Obama turned to cities as partners to a large extent because he found mayors far more receptive to progressive policies, such as raising the minimum wage or mandating paid sick leave benefits, than a Congress controlled by Republicans. The new president won't be looking in that direction.

Even before he took office, President Trump and many of the nation's big-city mayors found themselves at odds over issues such as climate change and immigrant rights. Baltimore, San Francisco and Seattle were among cities that approved resolutions either castigating Trump and his rhetoric or calling on him to condemn the instances of hate speech that followed his election.

The battle reached its boiling point on Jan. 25, when Trump signed an executive order to cut off federal funds to cities that refuse to detain undocumented immigrants. It could cost cities, collectively, billions of dollars. But numerous mayors swiftly pledged that their cities would remain sanctuaries for undocumented immigrants and minority groups, including Muslims who may be threatened by shifts in federal policy. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, for example, vowed to offer safe harbor to all residents, even if that means using "City Hall itself" as a sanctuary.

"It's clear Trump cannot fulfill his desire to have mass deportation without using local police departments," says Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton. "I'm not going to do that."

Politically, Trump and leaders in the nation's major metropolitan areas inhabit separate worlds. That sets up a dynamic that's likely to be more combative than collaborative. In contrast to their weakness at the state and federal levels, Democrats dominate cities, especially large ones. Democratic mayors -- most of them quite liberal -- control city halls in 22 of America's 25 largest cities. As the only remaining stronghold of progressive political power in the country, they will be called upon by left-leaning interest groups to pursue policies that are now complete nonstarters in Washington and most state capitols.

All of this might jibe with their personal inclinations, but mayors know it puts them at risk of undermining their relations with Washington. Cities can't constantly oppose an administration's policies in the way an outside group such as the American Civil Liberties Union can. Cities depend on other levels of government for funding and to a large extent their authority is constrained by them. There aren't as many federal dollars flowing directly to cities as there once were, but mayors don't want to put the remaining millions at risk. And there's the additional fear that the federal government might emulate a game actively played by Republican states -- namely, passing laws that preempt liberal local policies.

But mayors are eternal optimists. They are hoping that Washington will not view them as an enemy. There's a big difference, Stanton says, between campaign rhetoric and governing. Mayors may be at odds with Trump on certain issues, but they believe that Trump -- himself a creature of New York City, with significant real estate holdings in other large urban centers -- understands that cities are the economic engines of the country. Picking too many fights with cities will do nothing to further his agenda of creating highly paid jobs.

"It doesn't make sense," says Louisville's Fischer, "to have super-negative consequences on areas that are driving the economy right now."

Trump's talk of a major infrastructure package -- with a price tag as high as a trillion dollars -- has mayors hopeful about at least one form of federal investment. They've been trying to make the case to administration officials that sending money directly to cities, rather than funneling everything through state transportation departments, would get shovels in the ground much faster.

"I do think cities are going to benefit from the administration's work," says Mick Cornett, the mayor of Oklahoma City. "They're intent on growing a strong economy, and that economy is going to be centered, of course, in cities around the country."

Still, the fact remains that Trump was elected by a vote that seemed to pit major metropolitan areas against practically everyone else. In the presidential voting last fall, Hillary Clinton carried 88 of the nation's 100 largest counties, but little else. Trump's strongest regions of support were ones that have been left behind by a global economy tilted toward major cities. Republicans in Congress also mostly represent nonurban areas with different values from those of the major population centers.

The disconnect between cities and the new government in Washington has the potential to make life a lot harder for many mayors. And the domestic policies being discussed at the dawn of this administration, especially cuts to health-care programs, would have a big negative impact on urban areas.

"Most of the federal money flowing into cities flows to individuals in the cities, not to cities themselves," says Erika Poethig, director of urban policy initiatives at the Urban Institute. "When we think about the policy changes under consideration -- the Affordable Care Act repeal, block granting Medicaid -- you don't think of that as urban policy, but all of that will affect cities, with consequence for people who govern those cities."

Although the Obama administration worked closely with urban governments, much of what it did was provide guidance, technical support and a relatively modest infusion of resources. The same Republican opposition in Congress that led Obama to turn to cities in the first place meant that there were no big-money urban initiatives coming out of Washington, along the lines of the HOPE VI housing program of the 1990s.

Cities have enjoyed a close relationship with the Obama administration, but the administration was looking to cities as places that were producing results that could be replicated," says Simone Brody, executive director of What Works Cities, which consults with mayors.

Yet while partisan gridlock prevented Washington from accomplishing very much over the past six years, the country, if not booming, certainly performed better economically than most other rich nations. A huge share of that was due to the increased dynamism of cities. They thrived under Obama, not because of federal assistance but because of a confluence of market forces. It wasn't dollars from Washington but rather corporate and philanthropic investment and tens of millions of individual choices that brought jobs and new residents back into the centers of major cities.

The metropolitan economy is now not just dynamic, but wholly dominant. Metropolitan areas account for a majority of economic activity in nearly every state. Three-quarters of the nation's gross domestic product is generated in the 100 largest metro areas alone. In Arizona, greater Phoenix makes up 70 percent of the economy. Tucson accounts for half of the rest. The pro-city combination of market forces and demographic change will continue, even if Washington becomes uninterested or even hostile.

"I don't expect the trend of corporations and entrepreneurial startups moving toward urban centers and metro areas to stop," says Stephen Benjamin, the mayor of Columbia, S.C. "The decisions companies are making to come to cities are purely business decisions. They're going where the talent is."

Clinton carried fewer than 500 counties in November, but they accounted for 64 percent of the country's economic activity in 2015, according to a Brookings Institution analysis. The 2,600-plus counties Trump carried split just over a third of the national economy between them. The same disconnect between blue cities and red states -- between Phoenix and Arizona, for example -- now applies to cities and the White House.

All of this leaves many mayors adopting a familiar posture when it comes to federalism. If you're not going to help us, they're saying to Washington, please just leave us alone. But that may be wishful thinking. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti notes that his city is a net donor when it comes to federal funds, getting back only 72 cents for every dollar sent out. It would be "unfair" if that distribution got any worse, he says. It could, though. Just before Christmas, the city and county of Los Angeles announced a multimillion-dollar legal defense fund for immigrants facing deportation. Other major cities are setting up or considering similar funds. Almost simultaneously, legislation has been introduced in Congress that would strip federal funding from states or localities that are not in compliance with federal immigration law.

That kind of bill should sound painfully familiar to leaders of major cities. Numerous states have stripped away the authority of local governments to set their own policies when it comes to transgender rights, minimum-wage levels, plastic bag bans and a host of other issues. Most federal preemption laws have been comparatively modest -- blocking local requirements for restaurant menu disclosures, for instance, or reserving regulation of certain chemicals at the federal level. But constitutional authority exists for a federal preemption wave that could equal or even exceed the one launched so far by Republican state governments.

Hence the dilemma for mayors. Their constituents and reliable political allies will be pushing them to oppose Trump, who elicits special levels of fear and loathing among millions of city dwellers.

"In this new world of Trump being president of the United States and Republicans having one-party control of Congress," says Phoenix's Stanton, "mayors are going to have to step up to the plate big time and be strong, not be afraid to adopt public policies that are often progressive public policies." But, as the mayor of a city targeted for preemption by his own state, Stanton knows as well as anyone there are risks involved with such a strategy.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced a multimillion-dollar legal defense fund for immigrants facing deportation. (David Kidd)

During the campaign, Trump said that "our inner cities are a disaster," painting a dire picture through inaccurate statistics about poverty, crime and employment. Trump's numbers may have been off, but they spoke to a grudge against cities that resonated with his voters. The more cities brag about being economic engines, the more they can fuel resentment among those who feel abandoned by the contemporary economy -- the people Trump spoke to directly with his pledges to bring back jobs in mining and manufacturing.

All of this leaves cities scrambling to find areas of common cause with the administration and its rural and small-town loyalists. Some mayors are already making the case that cuts to programs benefiting large cities will also hurt residents of smaller cities and rural areas. They hope that issues such as raising the national minimum wage will be seen less as liberal causes and more as a means of addressing the grievances of the struggling working class. They'll seek to frame debates over education and housing in a similar light.

"The common ground will be the issues the stereotypical rural, white, blue-collar voters are concerned about," says Louisville's Fischer. "These are the same issues our urban Hillary voters have been complaining about for decades." In order to make their case, cities are hoping to find allies within the administration. They don't know yet whom Trump will appoint to many of the agency and White House jobs that interact most closely with other levels of government. In contrast with the Obama administration, which had a former mayor as its last director of intergovernmental relations, it's not clear who -- if anyone -- will speak from an urban perspective when decisions are being made.

"[We] have made a forceful case to the president to maintain a strong voice for local officials inside the White House," says Michael Wallace, federal lobbyist for the National League of Cities. "At least have someone with the city's point of view [help shape] policies before they're really public."

Mayors are convinced they'll need to network more among themselves, figuring out how best to speak to Washington. Since the election, there have been coordinated efforts on immigration policy involving mayors from cities such as Atlanta, Chicago and New York. But going forward, working with Washington could require some self-effacement on the part of the highest-profile mayors. Even as big-city mayors keep the progressive flag flying on a variety of issues, they may turn to leaders of smaller communities to speak for them on some issues before Congress and at the White House. They don't

want are dynamic to be Manhattan and San Francisco versus farm country.

This sort of thing already happens in many states. The major city may not have great relations with the legislature, but its suburbs often do. The mayor of the second city may therefore speak for the metropolitan area as a whole, lending it a more favorable face.

"I get asked a lot of times to speak for the region," says Jim Brainard, the longtime mayor of Carmel, Ind., an exurb of Indianapolis.

Such a strategy requires cooperation within metropolitan regions. All too often, cities within a metro area view each other suspiciously as competitors for jobs and residents. It will now be more in their interest than ever to see themselves as partners on a larger stage, one that includes their rural neighbors. It's easy to forget that half the country's rural population lives within metro areas.

Rather than simply deriding the main city as a place that's perverse on cultural issues and sucks up all the jobs, rural residents and leaders have to be convinced that the city is the transportation hub and major market for agriculture and rural manufacturing products.

"Even though cities and suburbs and rural areas rise and fall together, that hasn't resulted in true collaboration in most places," says Bruce Katz, an urban scholar at Brookings. "There's a real question from this election of whether cities and their surrounding counties and municipalities can focus on a shared and common vision. If they can't, states and the federal government will continue to divide them. They'll be hijacked by partisans at higher levels of government."

Metropolitan cooperation may require a change in rhetorical approach. Politicians in major cities are fond of proclaiming their commitment to values such as tolerance and inclusion. They aren't going to abandon those principles, but they will have to talk about them in a different way, suggests Nick Licata, a former member of the Seattle City Council.

Progressives may want to borrow a page from the playbook of same-sex marriage proponents, who sought to cast their cause conservatively, not as an act of personal liberation, but as falling squarely within traditional family values, including the protection of children.

The need for sanctuary city policies, for instance, might be framed not as protection for vulnerable individuals, but rather as a way of maintaining public safety.

"The internal dynamics within the cities are not going to change," Licata says. "If they want to get elected, they're still going to be promoting progressive issues. But that's not necessarily a winning strategy for turning the country around."

Without an obvious friend in the White House, city leaders are going to have to improvise. Lacking much financial support from Washington, they'll be more on their own than in the past when it comes to innovation and service delivery. But most seem determined to continue the policies that they believe have contributed not only to their citizens' well-being, but their economic success.

"The partnerships we've relied on out of Washington for 70 years may go, but the resolve of cities will remain," says Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto. "If it makes us adapt as cities, there will be opportunities when the pendulum swings in the other direction. This century is the century of cities, not just in this country, but globally."

CNN

Big city mayors confident they'll remain sanctuaries

By Maeve Reston

Democratic mayors of the nation's largest cities are quickly banding together to fight President Donald Trump's crack down on so-called sanctuary cities.

Trump signed an executive order Wednesday that White House press secretary Sean Spicer said will "strip federal grant money from the sanctuary states and cities that harbor illegal immigrants." The President reiterated his desire to target such cities Thursday when he spoke to a congressional Republican retreat.

But mayors in cities including Los Angeles, Boston and New York, as well as legal scholars, are saying not so fast.

They're confident their status as sanctuary cities -- jurisdictions that have policies in place designed to limit cooperation with or involvement in federal immigration enforcement actions -- is secure.

What are sanctuary cities?

Some are pointing to Supreme Court cases that have made it difficult for Washington to punitively withdraw money from state and local governments.

"We feel very strongly that the legal case is clear," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti told reporters after the executive order was announced.

He alluded to *NFIB vs. Sebelius*, a 2012 case that challenged aspects of former President Barack Obama's health care law. In one part of that decision, seven justices including Chief Justice John Roberts, agreed the Medicaid expansion provision under the ACA violated the Constitution by threatening to take away states' Medicaid money if they refused to comply with the expansion.

'Loud and clear'

"Back then it was a different politics, maybe it's ideologically reversed, but it was loud and clear," Garcetti said. "You can take away funding from a specific program if you don't adhere to the requirements of that program, but we don't have funding that is for the co-cooperation of our immigration federal officials and our local officials."

Ultimately, Garcetti said it's not up to his local police department to enforce federal immigration laws.

"They don't do immigration law any more than they do postal fraud or tax evasion," Garcetti said. "That is the responsibility of the federal government."

Karen Tumlin, legal director for the National Immigrant Law Center, said there is a long line of cases that deal with the spending clause of the US Constitution. They have underscored, she said, that the federal government can put some

requirements on states when they parcel out funding, but it can't be unduly coercive.

Key points in Trump's immigration executive orders

The need for a clear correlation between an action by a state and a threat to pull federal funding, was affirmed in the 1987 case *South Dakota vs. Dole*. That case looked at states that wanted to have a drinking age under 21. The federal government threatened to restrict highway funding in those states because they believed the underage drinking laws affected highway safety.

In that case, the court ruled that the federal government wasn't being "unduly coercive" because underage drinking was indeed directly related to highway safety.

"There is a constitutional boundary there," Tumlin said, "and the boundary really is coercion -- this notion of sanctity between what kinds of things localities get to decide and when the federal government can coerce them into action."

One of the many complex facets of how Trump's executive order will play out is the fact that the term "sanctuary city" has no universal meaning.

Police chiefs around the country have widely varying policies in the degree to which they cooperate with ICE agents and the lengths they will go to protect undocumented immigrants.

Law enforcement leaders in some cities have argued it is invaluable to have a strong relationship with immigrant communities -- and limit fear of deportation -- when they are trying to solve crimes. Undocumented immigrants, they note, can serve as helpful informants.

Tricky balance for mayors

But Democratic mayors face a tricky balance.

Many of them want to develop a good relationship with the Trump administration, because they see opportunities to bring dollars to their cities if the new President embarks on the major infrastructure projects he has promised. Garcetti, for example, has spoken to Trump three times since he was elected about projects that they could collaborate on.

But in the most liberal bastions of the country, mayors must also answer to their constituents who want to see path to citizenship for as many as 11 million immigrants living in the United States.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh was among the most strident voices in the resistance this week -- promising that if necessary, he would "use City Hall itself to shelter and protect anyone who is targeted unjustly."

Reality Check: Illegal immigration has plummeted

"We will not be intimidated by the threat to federal funding," Walsh said. "We have each other's backs, and we have the Constitution of the United States of America on our side."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio declared Trump's executive order to be "vague and in some ways contradictory" and "very susceptible to legal challenge."

"If they make an attempt to pull that money, it will be from NYPD, from security funding to fight terrorism," de Blasio told CNN's Alisyn Camerota Thursday on "New Day." "If an attempt is made to do that, we will go to court immediately for an injunction to stop it."

In Chicago, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who has welcomed Trump's Twitter offer to send in federal resources to reduce Chicago's shooting and killings, told reporters that the executive order wouldn't change anything.

"We are going to stay a sanctuary city," he said during a press conference.

Noting the executive order lacked any detail about what funds would be taken away, he decided to highlight the positive.

"I'm going to take the President's offer to give us resources, and that's where I'm going to focus," Emanuel said.

KPCC

California leaders prepare to defend against Trump orders on immigration, sanctuary cities

California political leaders largely closed ranks on news Wednesday of President Donald Trump's executive orders to withhold federal funding for sanctuary cities and move against undocumented immigrants with criminal records.

The president's actions prompted a flurry of responses from political leaders.

State Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who was sworn in Tuesday and is expected to play a key role in defending California's immigrant-friendly policies and programs, said it was important to read the executive orders in context.

"Executive orders do not change existing law. Executive orders cannot contradict existing law. And executive orders can be challenged for violating constitutional and legal standards in their enforcement," Becerra's statement reads.

Becerra said California is prepared to work with the federal government, but added "we will remain ready to advance and defend California's policies wherever and whenever necessary."

Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, among California's sanctuary cities, issued a statement:

... The safety and well-being of everyone who lives, works in, and visits L.A. will always be our number-one priority. The idea that we do not cooperate with the federal government is simply at odds with the facts. We regularly cooperate with immigration authorities — particularly in cases that involve serious crimes — and always comply with constitutional detainer requests.

What we don't do is ask local police officers to enforce federal immigration laws — and that's an official LAPD policy that has been enforced for nearly 40 years. That is for everyone's good, because trust between police and the people they serve is absolutely essential to effective law enforcement. ...

Splitting up families and cutting funding to any city — especially Los Angeles, where 40% of the nation's goods enter the U.S. at our port, and more than 80 million passengers traveled through our airport last year — puts the personal safety and economic health of our entire nation at risk. It is not the way forward for the United States.

Garcetti later told KPCC that "coercion" by the Trump administration over the city's policies would be unconstitutional.

"The federal government cannot do that. The Supreme Court has been clear... And I think it's a fundamental cornerstone

of our democracy that no matter who you are in charge, you can't just make people do things and withdraw their own tax dollars in an unconstitutional way because you have a disagreement on how we approach an issue," the mayor said.

U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, who Becerra replaced as attorney general following Harris' move to the Senate, called Trump's latest moves harmful to public safety.

"Directing a deportation force to break up immigrant families contributing to our country is not a show of strength, it damages our communities and erodes local economies," Harris said in a statement.

Members of the California Legislature joined in criticizing the president's executive orders.

Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León said the orders would not return jobs to the economy, but would do the opposite.

"These are spiteful and mean-spirited directives that only instill fear in the hearts of millions of people who pay taxes, contribute to our economy and our way of life," he said during a press conference on Wednesday.

Possible local impact

If federal funding is withheld from sanctuary cities, both large and small municipalities could be impacted. Besides Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Ana and La Puente are among the localities that have resolved to protect undocumented immigrants.

According to the Los Angeles office of the City Administrative Officer, about 5.6 percent of Los Angeles' \$8.8 billion 2016-1017 budget comes from federal funds, or roughly \$506 million.

The funds include community development block grants, which help pay for affordable housing, and grants that help pay for public services like port security, public safety, transit programs and libraries.

How much of this could be withheld is uncertain, said Fernando Guerra, director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University and a KPCC board member.

"It's not so much the existing funds that would be in danger," Guerra said. "It is the future funds."

Applications for new federal grants could be denied, he said, or programs cut.

But Guerra and other experts say the move to block federal funding from sanctuary cities is likely to prompt litigation – in part because what constitutes a "sanctuary city" isn't well-defined.

The Los Angeles Police Department's longstanding policy, Special Order No. 40, states officers "shall not initiate police action with the objective of discovering the alien status of a person." And as with several other jurisdictions, local police don't hold immigrants for deportation at the behest of immigration agents beyond the time they are eligible for release. Were there a federal legal challenge, "you would have to prove that being a sanctuary city would get in the way of federal action," Guerra said. "What has been the substance? That would be the challenge they would have."

In spite of local law enforcement policies, if federal immigration agents decided to raid a location in the city of L.A., the police department would not resist, he said.

Last week, the L.A. City Council voted to hire a city "immigrant advocate" to help shepherd the city through federal policy changes, and help identify funds that are at stake and how to preserve them.

Local officials are also awaiting details of Trump's move to deport immigrants with criminal records.

Although the president said more than two million will be removed from the country, that doesn't square with the number of immigrants who have committed deportable serious offenses, said Karthick Ramakrishnan, a political scientist and immigration expert at University of California, Riverside.

It's likely the Trump administration will redefine the priorities for deportation to include those who committed minor offenses, he said.

The Obama administration set a higher priority on deporting immigrants with felony offenses, opting not to focus on minor offenders, such as people with traffic-related offenses.

"Essentially this new executive order would wipe that away, to not differentiate among the different types of criminal offenses that the administration would prioritize," Ramakrishnan said.

Streetsblog

LADOT Releases Vision Zero Action Plan

By Joe Linton

This morning, the City of Los Angeles' Department of Transportation released its Vision Zero Action Plan.

In 2015, Mayor Garcetti issued his Vision Zero directive putting L.A. on course to eliminate all traffic fatalities by 2025.

The L.A. City Council reaffirmed a Vision Zero commitment by approving similar policies in its Mobility Plan 2035. During 2016, LADOT did a deeper dive into traffic death and injury data, and hosted a series of focus group meetings for input.

In an interview with Streetsblog, LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds emphasized that Vision Zero policy work is still focused on raising awareness. Reynolds stressed that LADOT, LAPD, and other city departments intend to work closely with community organizations, including the Vision Zero Alliance. Reynolds wants the city to work with community groups to change L.A. attitudes to see saving lives as more critical than marginal increases in car throughput.

Fatalities and serious injuries (KSI) per neighborhood street mile LADOT has identified 40 prioritized corridors for Vision Zero improvements

LADOT further analyzed the identified High-Injury Network to identify 40 priority corridors where the city will prioritize projects, policies, and programs to reduce traffic violence. Reynolds stated that the major problem in these corridors is speeding. Safety interventions will include around 15 engineering projects, including improvements like signal re-timing and road diets.

Reynolds further emphasized the importance of the city's push to change state laws to improve traffic safety in L.A. She also stated that LADOT is pushing for the state to revise right-of-way laws that define jaywalking, as well as revising how

City Watch

Millennial Myths About Market Magic (When It Comes To Measure S)

By Dick Platkin

In writing and speaking about Measure S, the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, I have recently encountered an emotionally charged argument that Measure S is a ruse by old geezers (baby boomers like myself) living in single-family homes. Apparently the boomers want to maintain their property values at the expense of Millennials -- that is, the 20 and 30 somethings. Curiously though, the old geezers who own and run the four large real consortiums funding the opposition to Measure S and devising the anti-S arguments repeated by these Millennials play no role in this imaginary generational conflict.

While one of the great lessons from the recent presidential election was the enormous support from Millennials for the two most progressive candidates, Senator Bernie Sanders and Dr. Jill Stein, these anti-S Millennials are apparently outliers. Their belief, nevertheless, that market magic can cure urban ills -- especially overpriced rental housing, poor job creation, and inadequate transit ridership -- needs to be addressed.

In their view, since Measure S jump-starts LA's legally required but moribund General Plan process, and then reinforces the new plans with well-defined rules on how developers can adulterate them, these strengthened land use regulations will stymie vast market forces. If unleashed by even more deregulation, the private market will create a cornucopia of cheap housing and alternative transportation modes for Millennials.

As a parent of two Millennials, let me explain why this bewildering belief in market magic, which we usually associate with Garcetti-type neo-liberal politicians and their developer patrons, is bunkum. Whatever their ages, those who have drunk this Kool-Aid only need to look outside their apartment or house windows to debunk these market magic myths. In LA, they will see what happens when private greed substitutes for rational city planning: homeless encampments, billboards and super-graphics, McMansions in the shadows of luxury towers, crumbling sidewalks, a patchwork of risky bike lanes, gridlocked streets full of potholes, widespread building code violations, demolition of rent stabilized apartments, illegal evictions, sagging overhead wires, treeless boulevards, and barely paved alleys filled with discarded couches. Then, if they go to City Hall, they will see pay-to-play politics on open display at the City Council. There, every big real estate project, such as the Caruso luxury tower near the Beverly Center, obtains its special spot-planning and spot-zoning ordinances by a consistent 15-0 margin. For them, the LA Times exposes of developer contributions to elected officials to obtain land use entitlements barely registers.

I suppose a few people, whatever their age, welcome these byproducts of deregulation, but most of those opposing Measure S, including Millennials, have not yet come to terms with what actually lies ahead if Measure S fails.

They will rediscover LA's status quo. Their expected rosy future will be nothing more than the broken present that the corporate funders of anti-S ads wish to maintain. It is the dystopia we already live in, not the utopia they imagine will result from the full-on deregulation of private land in Los Angeles.

The plethora of affordable market housing and low income housing that the anti-S corporate funders promise is just a ploy. It will not appear because, like today, developers want to maximize their profits. That is why they build luxury housing and then repeatedly claim -- despite zero evidence -- that these unaffordable units actually create affordable housing through filtering and over-supply.

This is why I have also previously suggested that anyone who seriously believes that market magic is a panacea for Los Angeles should screen *Bladerunner*. (Photo, above) It is an extreme, free market vision of the dystopia we already live in. Why 'market magic' does not work in Los Angeles

Los Angeles is already a city with virtually no effective regulation of land. Yes, land use laws and regulations are still on the books, but they are peripheral to day-to-day decision-making and code enforcement. Nearly every waiver from LA's legally adopted plans and zoning sails through in unanimous votes, including the spot-zone changes and the spot-General Plan Amendments that the City Council routinely grants through special ordinances.

As for LA's rampant violations of the City's zoning and building codes, it up to residents to phone them into the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS). Once there, they apparently disappear into a time warp because nothing ever happens. Developers therefore know they can game the permitting and inspection system because the LADBS code enforcement function is in deep hibernation.

The free market apparently means developers know they are free to do whatever they want: illegal demolitions (that ignore regulations for asbestos and lead paint), billboards, supergraphics, McMansions, bootlegged signs, garage conversions, and even unpermitted remodels have become routine.

This stark reality means that any Angelenos who imagine that a free market utopia is waiting in the wings should stop believing their lying eyes. The Los Angeles they already live in reveals market magic hard at work, and it will only get worse if Measure S fails on March 7. Then, an even more deregulated Los Angeles will pull them -- including Millennials -- down further. Still more expensive housing will appear when the City Planning Department, City Planning Commission, and the City Council continue to sideline the General Plan, adopted zoning, and the California Environmental Quality Act. The free market is the culprit, not planning and zoning

As for the other part of the free market equation, economic inequality will increase when developers can build what they want, where they want, when they want through easily obtained zone variances, zone changes, and General Plan Amendments. Their underlying parcels will quickly appreciate in market value when planning and zoning restraints are removed. But this windfall does not come out of thin air; it comes out of the pockets of tenants who are painted into a corner by systematic rent increases, overcrowding, and cutbacks in public services. Of course, they are the lucky ones because they do not yet need to live in cars, garages, or on the streets.

Furthermore, the downward mobility experienced by many millennials does not result from cities sticking to their legally adopted plans and zones. It is exactly the opposite. Apparently some Millennials have succumbed to the developers' claims that existing zoning holds back housing construction. But, LA's status quo already has more than enough zoning where developers could build apartments, but choose not to.

There are no legal barriers to the construction of three to five story market rate and affordable apartments on LA's long commercial corridors. Instead, the barriers are strictly self-imposed. Such buildings are not as profitable as luxury high-rise towers with sky-high rents. The free market adored by Measure S opponents is the real culprit, not zoning and planning rules.

Final word on who benefits from the defeat of Measure S

All we need to do is follow the money since a defeat perpetuates the pay-to-play status quo in Los Angeles. That means anti-S claims about large, unplanned real estate projects (i.e., unrestrained real estate speculation) generating transit ridership, jobs, and affordable housing will be quickly exposed as the disingenuous arguments of self-serving opportunists.

While luxury high-rise towers and shopping centers are certain to appear through spot-zones and spot-plans, anyone who imagines that they will usher in these social benefits will get a harsh dose of reality. None of these imagined social benefits have appeared in the past and present, and none will appear in this future.

City Watch

The Price Is Right For The Ninth! Say What?

By Jack Humphreville

You can't make this stuff up.

Council District Nine Incumbent Curren Price's campaign slogan, The Price is Right for the Ninth, is spot on given the pay to play culture permeating the cesspool of corruption known as City Hall.

This begs the question to Price, "What is the price that the deep pocketed real estate developers paid you to support the out of context, \$1.2 billion high rise development of The Reef in South Central that has the very real potential to displace tens of thousands local residents?"

But Price is not alone.

We should demand that Mayor Garcetti and all of the members of the Herb Wesson led City Council come clean about all their shady dealings with real estate developers, starting with Garcetti, Buscaino, Englander, Huizar, and Martinez and their involvement with the \$600,000 of laundered campaign contributions involving the \$72 million Sea Breeze development that was disclosed in a well-researched front page story of the Los Angeles Times.

And the list of neighborhood destroying developments are too many to enumerate, but involves billions of congestion causing, "up zoned" developments approved by the Mayor Garcetti, the Herb Wesson City Council, and the Jose Huizar led Planning and Land Use Management committee.

As of December 31, the Mayor and the seven City Council incumbents have been showered with over \$5 million in campaign contributions with millions more expected prior to the March 7 election. And this does not include millions in self-serving contributions to "independent" expenditure committees to support individual candidates and politically favored ballot measures.

While the price of admission to the cesspool of corruption known as City Hall is chump change relative to the value of favors granted to City Hall's generous real estate development cronies, what is the price that we Angelenos will have to pay?

Trust me, it ain't chump change.

Vote Yes on S, the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative.

City Watch

Are LA Homes Falling Into A Financial Sink Hole?

By Richard Lee Abrams

President Donald J. Trump and his adviser Kellyanne Conway use "Alternative Facts," which Meet the Press host Chuck Todd correctly identified as "Falsehoods." In 2014, our own Judge Allan Goodman made the same observation about Eric Garcetti and his use of Alternative Facts when His Honor rejected Garcetti's update to the Hollywood Community Plan. As judges often do, Judge Goodman used polite legalese, saying that Garcetti used "fatally flawed data" and "wishful thinking" -- which we know mean Lies and Myths.

How Lies and Myths and Alternative Facts crashed the economy in 2008.

Lies, Myths and Alternative Facts (LMAFs) resulted in the Crash of 2008 which devastated millions of Americans. The crash grew out of the ethos of Alternative Facts which originated from corrupt business practices right here in the Los Angeles area. Mortgage lenders like Countrywide and Indymac Bank were selling defective mortgages to Wall Street. (A defective mortgage is one in which the lender knows that the homeowner cannot pay off the loan and will default.) Wall Street would then bundle together defective mortgages and sell them to pension funds, foreign countries, etc. (Goldman Sachs executive and Trump's Secretary of Treasury-designate Steven Mnuchin made his multi-million fortune by buying Indymac Bank after the Crash of 2008.)

We need to focus on how LMAFs crashed the economy in 2008 because, once again, they are at work both nationally and locally. Unless we stop this massive and near perpetual disinformation, life will become much worse for everyone. Normally, a Wall Street investment firm like Goldman Sachs selling junk mortgages would result in investors not buying

houses would guarantee the buyers that if the income from the bundled mortgages dipped below a certain amount, the investment firm itself would make up the difference. Thus, all those pension funds, foreign countries, etc. felt safe in buying the bundled mortgages.

However, there was a third level of fraud. The insurance sold by the investment houses to guarantee that the bundled mortgages would pay out the benefits was not insurance. Insurance should require the investment house to set aside insurance premiums to pay off the claims. Goldman Sachs et al were not putting those "premiums" into accounts so they would have the cash to pay future claims. Rather, they counted the premiums as regular income and spent the premium money. If State Farm spent all the premium money it collected, it would have no money to rebuild your home if it burned down. Likewise, when the investment firm spent all the "premiums" from the "insurance" it sold to buyers of the bundled, defective mortgages, it had no stock pile of cash to pay the claims.

Then, there was the fourth level of fraud. Insurance may only be sold to people with an insurable interest in a house or person. Thus, I cannot take out fire insurance on my neighbor's house and my neighbor may not take out insurance on my life.

This is what occurred with bundled defective mortgages. Wall Street executives who created the defective bundles bought the "insurance" that would pay executives when their bundles failed. How long do you think you would be alive if MS-13 owned a \$25 million dollar life insurance policy on your life? This is the criminal core of the Crash of 2008. Wall Street executives intentionally created defective bundled mortgages, then bought "insurance" on them. It's the same as betting against a race horse you just drugged.

Since the bundles of defective mortgages had been designed to fail in order for the "insurance" to pay off, Wall Street executives started buying worthless mortgages from Countrywide, Indymac Bank and similar mortgage lenders. The faster the bundled defective mortgages failed, the sooner the Wall Street executives would collect on their "insurance." Because so many mortgages were being "sold," the public erroneously assumed that people were buying all these new homes. Thus, billions of dollars were diverted to housing construction. All the mortgage companies wanted was a signature on a piece of paper, then they'd sell it to Wall Street with no regard as to whether the home "buyer" was employed or even existed. It got to the point that mortgage companies were inventing buyers and selling fake documents to Wall Street.

Wall Street executives did not care if homeowners could not afford the homes or that these homeowners were non-existent. The worse the mortgages became, the faster the bundles crashed and the faster the executives would put in their insurance claims. They called the insurance "credit default swaps" solely to evade any insurance regulations. Because these Wall Street executives sold trillions of dollars of "insurance" on defective bundled mortgages, investment firms were faced bankruptcy unless one of two things happened:

(1) The U.S. government could immediately insure all mortgages.

Then no bundled mortgage would fail and no one could make a claim under the "insurance" (credit default swap.) No investment house would face failure as there would be no insurance claims based on defective mortgages. The cost to the government to start up such a program overnight could have been as high as \$100 billion.

(2) The U.S. Government could bail out the Wall Street firms.

Using this pproach, all the bundled mortgages would fail and Wall Street executives could collect their trillions of dollars through "insurance claims." That is why the Obama-Geithner chose to bail out Wall Street – to make certain Wall Street firms had enough cash to pay off the crooks who had perpetrated the greatest economic crime in world history. Trillions of dollars flowed to Wall Street firms while Main Street went bankrupt. This corruptionism is also the origin of the Politics of Revenge that has brought us President Donald Trump.

Lies, Myths and Alternative Facts underlie the current LA housing market.

The current high prices for Los Angeles residential real estate is similarly based on Lies, Myths and Alternative Facts.

LMAF #1: There is no high demand for housing in Los Angeles.

Just as people incorrectly believed there was a huge demand for housing between 2002-2007 because it appeared that so many homes were being purchased, the high price of Los Angeles houses does not mean there is a demand for housing. As we learned in 2008 and forgot by 2009, crooks can manipulate markets thereby deceiving millions of people into believing there is a demand for housing. But there is always a crash.

LMAF #2: There is no single LA Housing market.

In reality, Los Angeles has several markets for homes and what happens in one housing market does not always affect another market. Each situation requires analysis based on real facts.

Families who want to buy a home in Echo Park are not driving up the cost for mansions in Bel Air. There is a stratification by price range for Los Angeles housing, but there is bleed over between nearby prices ranges. For example, after the City had 22,000 rent-controlled units destroyed and allowed judges to improperly eject poor people from their rent-controlled homes, four things resulted:

Those people who could afford places in the next higher housing bracket bid up the rents for apartments which were just above the rent-control level.

Those who could not afford to pay more than the low rent-controlled prices, e.g. the elderly and disabled on fixed income, became homeless. We do not add their rent of Zero Dollars to the cost of housing.

Rental agencies reported that average rents had increased and used that biased data to raise rents.

People believed that higher rents reflected an increased demand when in reality it reflected the fact that the Garcetti Administration reduced the supply of apartments for poor people by destroying rent-controlled housing.

The forces threatening Middle Class neighborhoods are more deceptively insidious.

As written in previous CityWatch articles, the worse threat to Los Angeles Middle Class is that homes are no longer valued by their value as living space but rather by their value as Speculative Investments. Because developers know

that they can re-zone any property to anything that they want, they buy homes in lower priced residential areas where they plan to build two to eight houses on a single family lot.

The lot where the developer plans to put a Granny Flat is worth more to him as Speculation than it is worth to a family as Living Space. Because the developer knows that he can bribe his way to a Small Lot Subdivision, the price of the "family home" zooms into the stratosphere. A small parcel with 8 homes, each separated by 6 inches, is worth far more money to a developer than the family can afford.

A middle class family does not have to be in direct competition with a developer to be faced with a detached home's Speculative Value. The realtor who sets the listing price researches recent sales prices for comparable homes. If two streets over, a home which was worth \$300,000 for Living Space sold for \$1.2 million on its Speculation Value, then the new home is priced at around \$1 million even if the Living Space value is less than one third as much.

The evils which flow from residential properties' prices being based on Speculative Value.

People, who pay attention to facts and the laws of economics, as opposed to Lies, Myths and Alternative Facts, know that certain evils always follow the "market dislocations" caused by LMAFs.

(1) The Middle Class moves away.

It's a form of osmosis where upwardly-mobile middle class families move away from the High Cost, Low Opportunity cities like Los Angeles to Low Cost, High Opportunity cities like Nashville, Denver, or Austin, Texas. Los Angeles is already experiencing a significant net loss of its Family Millennials too this trend.

(2) The reduced demand for housing does not lower housing prices.

Prior to the Crash of 2008, there was virtually no demand for housing, yet the prices continued to increase.

Mathematically, all financial frauds collapse; but until they do, prices show little or no indication of the bust that is a few months or weeks away. Prices remain high because they are based on the public believing the LMAFs. Eventually, however, people see reality and the crash arrives.

(3) Millions of homeowners who bought high are stranded in homes worth far less than the equity they have in those homes.

This drop in prices often wipes out families' "nest eggs" since they have dumped all their cash into mortgages for homes which were inflated by two, three or four times of their true value by the Garcetti Administration's disinformation. They can neither sell nor renegotiate these mortgages.

People who purchased homes based on inflated Speculative Values live in finance hell. They must continue paying these mortgages based on old values that are much higher than the new lower values. Since they dumped all their extra cash into their homes, they do not have adequate insurance or stocks, pensions or other investments. They are often "house poor" – with every cent tied up in the house. They just have to pray they can hold on until a better economy returns.

When the economy turns down, people are laid off. If a lay-off happens to a family that is "under water" with its mortgage, it may be headed for the streets. There will always be a kind and loving Steven Mnuchin ready to foreclose on that family, even if it was only 27 cents short in a payment.

The need for Residential Mortgage Insurance.

Since Obama-Geithner refused to institute Residential Mortgage Insurance (RMI,) once people are laid off, they needlessly lose their homes. Sure, they may find decent jobs – a year after their homes' foreclosure – but that's of no help to them or the economy. Residential Mortgage Insurance is like fire insurance where the insurer makes up the short fall in the mortgage payment due to a financial disaster.

For example, if the Mom is laid off and the family lacks \$1,500 on the \$4,000 mortgage, the insurance pays the \$1,500. This government insured program is good for the general welfare of the nation because it will stop a crash in the housing market like what happened in 2008. But Obama-Geithner thought a complete crash was preferable, and thus, they refused to institute RMI on even an emergency basis. Now, the nation is again vulnerable.

The Big Lie on which the LA residential housing market rests.

It is fraudulent to insist that there is demand for dense housing, that people want to live in mixed-use projects next to freeways, that people want Granny Flats or that people want to pay \$850,000 to live in a house six inches away from another with no yard, no garden, no place for a dog, and no room for the kids to pitch a tent. Thus, we are paying taxes on billions of dollars of city bonds to construct the very type of dense housing which is emblematic of the fraud eating away at our economy.

We know that Garcetti is still feeding us a diet of Lies and Myths, just as we know that Family Millennials are moving away from LA to places where they can afford to buy a detached home with a nice yard with fruit trees and plenty of space. Worse yet, the decent employers are following the Family Millennials out of town.

LA Times

Metro picks controversial contractor to build the next phase of the Westside Purple Line

By Laura Nelson

Socal transportation officials on Thursday hired one of the more controversial names in California construction to build a \$2.4-billion section of the Westside subway, which will connect Century City to downtown Los Angeles.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors voted 8-0 to award a \$1.37-billion contract to a joint venture led by Sylmar-based Tutor Perini Corp. and chief executive Ronald Tutor.

The board's vote marks a form of redemption for Tutor, whose work on L.A.'s first subway a generation ago sparked a protracted legal battle that, until now, had left him excluded from Metro's rail building boom.

Tutor's bid was hundreds of millions of dollars lower than his competitors, drawing criticism from some skeptics. But during Thursday's meeting, Tutor told directors that he had "cross-checked until my eyes crossed" to ensure the bid was

accurate.

The decision to select the lowest bidder could pose challenges for Metro, which will face the risk of cost overruns and so-called change orders that could add to the price of the complicated subway project.

"There is an old saying I subscribe to: Once bitten, twice shy," said former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who served on the Metro board for two decades. "Metro has a long history with the Tutor company, and it's a not a good one."

Tutor could not be reached for comment.

In a prepared statement, Metro officials promised "a strong oversight plan with experienced staff" to keep the project on time and on budget. That could include periodic meetings between Tutor and Metro chief executive Phil Washington "to resolve project claims and changes," the release said.

The Purple Line, which will eventually connect downtown to West L.A. by a half-hour subway ride, is the most anticipated rail project in a generation.

Its second phase will extend west from Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Avenue, running beneath Beverly Hills High School and into Century City. The 2.59-mile extension is scheduled to open in 2025.

Tutor Perini and its partner, Connecticut-based O&G Industries, have been hired for a highly technical job: Digging and aligning their tunnels with the first phase of the subway project, which is currently under construction between Koreatown and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

In 1995, Tutor-Saliba-Perini sued Metro, claiming \$16 million in alleged unpaid expenses for work on three subway stations along Wilshire Boulevard. Metro filed a cross-complaint several years later, alleging that Tutor had demanded money for illegitimate claims.

After a decade of legal skirmishes, a judge ruled in 2001 that the firm and its attorneys had destroyed and withheld documents, turned in false claims for payment, and used minority subcontractor companies as fronts. A jury awarded Metro about \$29 million, plus legal fees and other expenses.

For the current Purple Line project, Tutor's total bid was \$1.45 billion, which includes more factors than the contract award, such as compensation for potential delays. The proposal was \$493 million lower than the second-place bid and \$871 million lower than the third, a difference of nearly 60%.

"I don't think I've ever seen three bidders on a project that were so far apart from one another," Yaroslavsky said.

"Because of the history that Metro has had with the Tutor company, you have to wonder how rigorously the financial aspects of the bid were analyzed."

In a statement, Metro officials said all three proposals "were comparable on their technical merits," but the Tutor Perini team's proposal was the "best value."

When Metro director Jacqueline Dupont-Walker questioned Tutor Thursday about the cost difference, he acknowledged that it "must have come to peoples' attention," but stood by the estimate, saying no company had more experience building L.A. subways.

"We've built most of this system," Tutor said. "We know what it costs us."

He added that the firm's earlier legal battles were not about the quality of the work. During subway construction, there were some questions about the thickness of the tunnel walls near downtown, but Metro staff said at the time that the walls were structurally sound.

Tutor's work on the subway tunnel through the Cahuenga Pass to North Hollywood was completed ahead of schedule.

The suite of Tutor companies has worked on other major L.A. projects over the years, including the Alameda Corridor, a rail expressway that serves the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. It opened in 2002 on budget and on schedule.

The Sylmar firm also is the contractor on the first section of the California high-speed rail project. The company has requested compensation for more than a year of delays on construction caused by problems with land acquisition in the Central Valley.

Four Metro directors, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, were absent for the Westside subway decision. Director Kathryn Barger, a Los Angeles County supervisor, did not vote, citing a conflict.

Yahoo Finance

Mayor Eric Garcetti To Speak At UCLA Extension's 31st Annual Land Use Law And Planning Conference In DTLA

UCLA Extension announced today that Mayor Eric Garcetti will be the keynote speaker at its Land Use Law & Planning Conference, largely regarded as the preeminent land use conference in the West. This one-day interdisciplinary program, to be held on Friday, January 27, 2017 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Downtown L.A., features a variety of experts who will discuss and share recent updates on core state and federal case law and legislation, land use law and planning issues. This will be Mayor Garcetti's first time attending the conference.

"Good planning is about more than shaping development -- it's about our dreams, and how we envision the communities of tomorrow," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Building a more livable Los Angeles means working together to make sure our laws and policies serve everyone who has a stake in that future. UCLA Extension's Land Use Law and Planning Conference is a fantastic place for dialogue, and I look forward to being part of the conversation."

A leading source of information on California land use legislation, case law and development, the conference offers a unique cross-disciplinary approach that explores the full range of perspectives drawn from the land use planning, legal, development and environmental communities, demonstrating how these factors influence the day-to-day work of attorneys, planners, public officials, consultants, developers, real estate professionals, and others involved in land use and environmental issues in California.

This year's dynamic panels topics include:

CEQA 2016: Few Surprises, But Some Welcome Clarity

Is Regionalism Inescapable? Did Greenhouse Gases Kill Local Control?

Planning, Zoning, and Development Law Update

The Recalibrated General Plan: If it Were a Car, Would it Be a Tesla... or an Edsel?

Quick Hits: Updates on a variety of topics including

-- SB 1190 California Coastal Commission: Ex Parte Communications

-- GHG and Climate Change -- State, Federal and International

-- Affordable Housing

-- Storm Water and State Mandate Reimbursements

-- New Section 404 Clean Water Act Nationwide Permits

-- Update on the State Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy

The conference is hosted by the UCLA Extension Public Policy Program, and is approved for 7 hours of CM (AICP) credit and 7 hours MCLE (State Bar of California) credit.

Patch

Los Angeles Traffic Is Nation's Deadliest

By City News Service

With Los Angeles being the deadliest city in America for traffic-related deaths, officials Thursday released a plan with the bold goal of completely eliminating them by 2025.

The Vision Zero Action Plan, which has been in the works for several years, calls for a number of engineering improvements along with increased enforcement of traffic laws to help reduce fatalities.

A total of 260 people died in 2016 traffic-related deaths, the highest per capita of any major city in the nation.

"Traffic deaths are not inevitable. We can work together to keep people walking, biking and driving out of harm's way -- and the Vision Zero Action Plan is a blueprint for making our streets safer for everyone, no matter how they get around the city," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who released the plan Thursday along with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

"The strategies in our plan can save lives. We're committed to seeing them through, as quickly as possible, to reach our goal of completely eliminating traffic-related fatalities in Los Angeles by 2025."

Vision Zero is a worldwide movement that was started in Sweden, which has seen a 30 percent decline in traffic deaths since committing to it in 1997, according to the plan.

Vision Zero Los Angeles has previously identified a series of streets, called the High Injury Network, that has a higher incidence of severe and fatal collisions.

The action plan released Thursday identified 40 priority corridors from the network and will focus its efforts there in 2017 to help try and reduce fatalities by 20 percent this year, which is the plan's first major goal.

Patch Morning Briefing: Trump's Wall Backtrack; Chinese New Year Celebration Begins

Plus: A vulnerability in the @POTUS Twitter handle, human-pig embryo and more.

"Car crashes are one of the leading causes of death for our children, teens and young adults here in LA. It is imperative we address this public health crisis and spare more families the misery of lives cut too short," said Councilman Mike Bonin, who chairs the City Council's Transportation Committee.

"We need better traffic enforcement combined with street designs that discourage speeding. By prioritizing Vision Zero and regularly reporting on implementation progress, we are holding leadership accountable and making a commitment to save lives."

The plan points to a number of examples of engineering improvements that have worked, including a scramble crosswalk at the intersection of Hollywood and Highland that was added in November 2015 and resulted in zero deaths and serious injuries since it was installed.

The plan also calls for more turn signals, a reduction of lanes in certain areas with the addition of a center turning lane, and an increased focus on speed enforcement.

A pedestrian hit by a car going 20 mph has an 80 percent chance of survival, but the chance falls to 10 percent if the car is going 40 mph, the plan found.

"Traffic safety is a core function of the Los Angeles Police Department, and our traffic divisions are dedicated to focus on tactics and missions that help achieve our goals of reducing deaths and serious injuries," LAPD Chief Charlie Beck said.

"By partnering closely with LADOT, we are making important progress on joining efforts so that engineering, education, and enforcement complement each other to effectively save lives."

City Council:

LA City Council May Support Senate Bill To Defy Federal Government

<http://www.kabc.com/2017/01/26/la-city-council-may-support-senate-bill-to-defy-federal-government/>

Arts, Parks & River:

A New Approach At The Triforium

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/opinion/a-new-approach-at-the-triathlon/article_0b07b3a4-e195-11e6-a486-7bc9baf367a2.html

Current museum exhibits and events

<http://www.dailynews.com/arts-and-entertainment/20170126/current-museum-exhibits-and-events>

8 Great Things To See At Night On Broadway

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/arts_and_entertainment/great-things-to-see-at-night-on-broadway/article_7c0707de-e19a-11e6-98b8-8bef372d3e01.html

Night On Broadway spectacle returns this Saturday night

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/1/26/14399078/night-on-broadway-guide-festival-downtown-la>

Hammer Museum announces a big expansion on Wilshire

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/1/26/14387852/hammer-museum-expansion-wilshire-renovation>

Economic Development:

Here are the biggest new LA projects filed in 2016

<https://therealdeal.com/la/2017/01/26/here-are-the-biggest-new-projects-filed-in-2016/>

LA's La Kretz Innovation Campus is a one stop shop for cleantech business development

<https://archpaper.com/2017/01/la-kretz-innovation-campus/#gallery-0-slide-0>

Why doesn't MacArthur Park gentrify?

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/1/26/14391534/macarthur-park-development-street-vending-gentrification>

Energy & Environment:

Residents complain of health problems, pollution near oil drilling site

<http://mynewsla.com/crime/2017/01/26/residents-complain-health-problems-pollution-near-oil-drilling-site/>

Protesters demand probe of SoCal Gas after ALiso Canyon gas withdrawal

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170126/protesters-demand-probe-of-socalgas-after-aliso-canyon-gas-withdrawal>

Porter Ranch residents demand Aliso Canyon gas fields be shut down

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/232071009-story>

SoGal Gas lifts advisory asking customers to curtail natural gas use

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/business/20170126/socalgas-lifts-advisory-asking-customers-to-curtail-natural-gas-use>

Health, Mental Health & Education:

This Is What The Resistance Looks Like: Steve Zimmer In LAUSD 4

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles/12501-this-is-what-the-resistance-looks-like-steve-zimmer-in-laUSD-4>

Why did the feds raid Celerity charter and what's next?

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Sat, Feb 4, 2017 at 4:32 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, Cecilia Cabello home <[REDACTED]>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Lynette Amerian <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:**Is Mayor Garcetti Soft On Trump?**<http://www.laweekly.com/news/is-mayor-garcetti-soft-on-trump-7882268>**Basically, LA's Garcetti hasn't lived up to his promise**<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20170203/basically-las-garcetti-hasnt-lived-up-to-his-promise-guest-commentary>**LA Mayor Eric Garcetti helps open \$50 million Terminal Island water reclamation plant upgrade**<http://www.dailybreeze.com/environment-and-nature/20170203/la-mayor-garcetti-helps-open-50-million-terminal-island-water-reclamation-plant-upgrade>**Seven Los Angeles Great Streets To Re Imagine Public Space**<https://www.kcet.org/news-analysis/seven-los-angeles-great-streets-to-re-imagine-public-space>**LA announces winners of Great Street Challenge**<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/02/03/68760/la-announces-winners-of-great-street-challenge-com/>**Watch This Heart Wrenching Reunion At LAX Of A Family Affected By Trump's Travel Ban**<http://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/watch-this-heart-wrenching-reunion-at-lax-of-a-family-affected-by-trumps-travel-ban/>**Iranian man returns to LAX after being sent to Dubai under Trump executive order**<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/02/03/68707/iranian-man-returns-to-lax-after-being-sent-to-dub/>**Donald Trump supports LA bid for 2024 Olympic Games, organizers say**<http://www.dailybreeze.com/events/20170203/donald-trump-supports-la-bid-for-2024-olympic-games-organizers-say>**LA Weekly****Is Mayor Garcetti Soft On Trump?**

By Hillel Aron

Democratic politicians around the country are tripping over themselves to denounce our new president and his executive order halting travel and refugees from seven majority-Muslim countries. The day after that order was given, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio unleashed a series of tweets calling the order "shameful" and "un-American," and then added: "President Trump's executive order erodes our constitutional rights. If this is where he's starting, imagine where he's going."

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, also on Twitter, announced that he was rushing off to the airport to help those who had been detained, and said: "We'll fight today, and we'll fight tomorrow." A bit later, in an opinion piece for CNN, Walsh pledged: "I will do everything lawful within my power to protect our immigrant neighbors, documented or not. If necessary, I will use City Hall itself to shelter and protect them from persecution."

Here in California, the state Senate passed a sharply worded resolution condemning the order, saying it "desecrates our American values and panders to fears and nativist instincts that have resulted in some of our nation's most shameful acts." The sharpest response, perhaps, came from Congressman Ted Lieu, who just hours after Trump's executive order released a statement saying, "Trump's action is not based on national security, it is based on bigotry. Lady Liberty is crying."

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's comments were more temperate. His immediate statement said the order "unfairly targets

refugees and pointed out that there is no evidence that this approach will improve national security. On Tuesday, when asked about Trump's executive orders, Garcetti said, "I think on the face of them, [they] are unconstitutional and illegal." Earlier in the week, Garcetti came across as far more conciliatory. Asked by National Public Radio if he embraced the narrative of California being ground zero for the Trump resistance, he replied:

I look forward to working with the White House in areas like infrastructure, where President Trump says he wants to spend a trillion dollars. Great, we'd love to start right here in Los Angeles. He's been very supportive of our Olympic bid. But we're also going to stand up for our families not to be divided. We're going to stand up for our economy, where 61 percent of our Main Street businesses are started by immigrants, and [for] making sure that we can continue to tell the ... human story of ... that history, to engage with it and, yes, to work with this administration on fixing what's broken, an immigration system right now that works, really, for nobody.

When asked about Trump's threat to withdraw federal funding from so-called "sanctuary cities," Garcetti replied: "We've never declared ourselves a sanctuary city; I'm still not sure what one is."

So was Garcetti being soft on Trump?

"I think many of us would like to see him be a little more aggressive and a little more resistant to the Trump administration, especially given how Democratic the city is," says Fernando Guerra, a professor of political science at Loyola Marymount University. "In terms of being the mayor of L.A., there is no cost to being the leader of resistance."

"Having said that," Guerra adds, "it's not in his nature. And there's nothing wrong with that. You just can't have someone do something that's not in their nature."

Indeed, Garcetti is famously diplomatic, capable of charming different rooms of people on different days. His slogan when he was running for mayor, if you'll recall, was "back to basics," a pleasant-sounding phrase that could be interpreted any number of ways.

There's another, more rational reason for Garcetti's moderate tone. The L.A. mayor is all but assured of re-election, so he doesn't have to worry about whipping the electorate into a Trump-hating frenzy, or about raising money — at least in the short term. His immediate priorities are getting things done. Garcetti hopes to expand L.A.'s rail network, turn the Los Angeles River into a giant urban park and bring the Olympics back to the city. All three require cooperation from Washington, D.C.

"I don't know that Garcetti has said anything dramatically different from [state Senate president pro tem] Kevin de Leon or [State Assembly Speaker] Anthony Rendon," says USC professor Dan Schnur. "But it's clear from his tone that he wants to find a way to stand up for the people of his city on the one hand but not forfeit the potential to move forward on large-scale infrastructure on the other."

Trump has pledged to pass a major infrastructure bill. While it's unclear what exactly that will look like, both Garcetti and Gov. Jerry Brown have made it clear that they'd like their pet projects to be considered.

"Both Garcetti and Jerry Brown have been much more measured than other California politicians," Schnur says.

Should Garcetti decide to run for governor in 2018, the calculus may change dramatically. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, whom some consider the gubernatorial frontrunner, was quick to join protesters in San Francisco after Trump issued his executive order. Should Trump continue on his current trajectory, the governor's race may hinge upon who is the biggest Trump basher.

Daily News

Basically, LA's Garcetti hasn't lived up to his promise

By Anne Marie Johnson

In 2013, then-candidate Eric Garcetti promised a "back to basics" agenda as mayor of Los Angeles — a streamlined government that would create a stronger economy and a more efficient and effective City Hall. According to a recent guest commentary on this page by two Democratic strategists, he has delivered "on far more than the 'basics.'"

The problem is, the facts don't back it up.

Since Garcetti has taken office, the basics have not improved a great deal, and many trends in the city have gone unaddressed. Housing costs have risen 31 percent since he took office, and countless families are now struggling to pay over 50 percent of their income on rent every year.

With the continued reduction of affordable housing in favor of luxury housing, it's no wonder the homeless population has steadily increased since 2013, with an additional 11 percent in the last year. Now, new tent cities are popping up along our sidewalks every day and the problem continues to get worse and worse. Our quality of life is on the decline for everyone, and yet our city government continues to do the bare minimum in addressing this growing crisis.

From 2015 to 2016, overall crime went up more than 4.6 percent and violent crime up more than 5.3 percent. Meanwhile, more than 30 percent of our streets are in serious need of resurfacing or total reconstruction, yet the Department of Public Works focuses on maintaining Los Angeles' least damaged streets since the rest are deemed too expensive to fix at this point.

Paying to deal with these problems is not easy. Los Angeles already has one of the highest sales taxes in the nation.

There's no wiggle room in the budget, either. Since Garcetti took office, the budget has grown by \$1 billion — a 22 percent increase. Are our sidewalks 22 percent better? Is the trimming of our city trees 22 percent better? Are there 22 percent fewer potholes in our neighborhoods? Of course not.

And with regard to net hires, not many have been made. For example, the Los Angeles Police Department is no closer to the additional 2,500 officers that both Chief Charlie Beck and former Chief Bill Bratton said we needed two years ago. Nor have we seen an increase in the number of city employees from the roughly 32,000 employees we had since the Great Recession.

were not adding more jobs in Los Angeles, yet government spending continues to increase, raising cost of living for Angelenos.

In terms of "back to basics" at the community level, Garcetti has done hardly anything to give power back to the more than 90 neighborhood councils that span our city. As a proud board member of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, I can easily attest to the struggles many other councils share when it comes to making our voices heard on neighborhood issues.

If Garcetti wants to brag about being a "back to basics" mayor, he needs to explain to us why the basics are pretty lousy. We need a progressive mayor who will stand up to President Trump's administration. That's why I'm supporting Mitchell Schwartz in the March 7 election.

I've gotten to know Schwartz, a progressive Democrat, entrepreneur, and environmental leader, and I'm proud to say he's the leader Los Angeles deserves in the time of Trump. A leader who will put Angelenos first, not City Hall insiders or special interests.

Schwartz has pledged that, as mayor, he would fix the lack of affordable housing, reform and restructure the Department of Water and Power, and restore ethics to City Hall.

Maybe it is time the city elected a mayor who — unlike Garcetti, who has been fundraising across the country for a potential campaign for governor in California — will spend less time talking about getting things done and more time getting them done here in Los Angeles.

Daily Breeze

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti helps open \$50 million Terminal Island water reclamation plant upgrade

By City News Service

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti helped celebrate a \$50 million expansion of the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant today, which he said will help Angelenos save more than 12 million gallons of potable water per day.

"We may be seeing a wetter winter this year, but L.A. is still in a historic drought -- and saving water is as important as ever," Garcetti said.

"This new facility is a bold investment that will help us save drinking water, expand our use of recycled water, and become a more sustainable city for generations to come."

Before the expansion, the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant could produce six million gallons of recycled water per day, but its capacity has now doubled.

Garcetti's office said the additional water will be used to recharge the Dominguez Gap Barrier, which prevents ocean water from seeping into groundwater aquifers along the coast, and to irrigate Harbor Golf Course, which will help meet the mayor's goal of converting 85 percent of Los Angeles' golf course acreage to recycled water use.

"L.A. Sanitation is leading the way when it comes to water reclamation infrastructure, and we have come a long way since Terminal Island was first built in 1935. The new disinfection process, called the Advanced Oxidation Process, uses ultraviolet light to purify water," said Enrique Zaldivar, general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation.

"With this new expansion, we will be able to treat 100 percent of the plant flow to this extensively treated high-quality recycled water standard."

KCET

Seven Los Angeles Great Streets To Re Imagine Public Space

By City News Service

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Friday announced the winners of the Great Streets Challenge, with a total of \$2 million awarded for seven projects designed to improve the city's commercial corridors.

"Our streets belong to the people who use them every day, and the Great Streets Challenge empowers Angelenos to re-imagine public spaces in their own neighborhoods," Garcetti said.

"These grants will allow community groups to bring a vision to life -- transforming streets across Los Angeles into vibrant, walkable spaces that reflect the unique character of their communities," he said.

Seven projects were selected as winners out of 37 applications from 99 community organizations, and include projects in Watts, Boyle Heights, Panorama City and on the Westside.

The winning community partners will receive up to \$13,000 for community outreach, and will be supported by city staff in implementing the projects, according to Garcetti's office.

The winning projects and their locations are

Grant Housing & Economic Development Corporation and Watts Re:Imagined at Wilmington Avenue between 103rd Street and Imperial Highway;

Pacoima Beautiful at the intersection of Van Nuys Boulevard and Parthenia Street;

Pico Great Street Collaborative at Pico Boulevard between Fairfax Avenue and Burnside Avenue;

Proyecto Pastoral at 1st Street between Mission Road and Gless Street and 4th Street between Gless Street and Clarence Street;

South Robertson Community Foundation at Robertson Boulevard between Cadillac Avenue and Kincardine Avenue;

Thai Community Development Center at Hollywood Boulevard between Western Avenue and Harvard Boulevard; and

West Angeles Community Development Corporation at Crenshaw Boulevard between W. 52nd and W. 63rd streets.

Fifth District Councilman Paul Koretz said he was "thrilled" the mayor selected Robertson Boulevard as a Great Streets Challenge grant recipient.

"I've been working with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to come up with creative ways to turn this major north/south thoroughfare into a safer, more walkable, artistic and vibrant center for everyone," Koretz said. "The grant money will allow us to further our goals of creating, attracting and providing more community access, reducing commercial vacancies, improving parking while enhancing safety for those by car, foot, transit or bike," he said.

KCET

LA announces winners of Great Street Challenge

Plans for a cultural destination in Thai Town, a safer Crenshaw Corridor, improved public spaces and pop-up street festivals for five other Los Angeles commercial districts moved closer to development Friday after L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the winners of his Great Streets Challenge.

The seven winners will each receive up to \$13,000 to help increase foot traffic, along with economic and cultural activities, according to the challenge's website. The mayor selected projects from 37 applications representing 99 partner organizations throughout the city.

You can see the full list of winners here, along with the location and plans for each of the seven proposed projects.

One of the challenge's winners was the environmental justice group Pacoima Beautiful. The group hopes to transform a section of a median in the middle of Van Nuys Boulevard in Panorama City, their planning director Max Podemski told KPCC.

"We thought that would be a great place to introduce a pedestrian island that could also function as a public space for people to gather, and also slow down traffic and create more of a human-scaled street," he said.

But the winnings from the Great Streets Challenge will probably not be enough to completely rebuild the curb and put in a new sidewalk, Podemski said in an email, adding that his organization was now looking at more temporary solutions using planters, removable posts and paint.

Other winners cheered their victories as a step in the right direction for underdeveloped streets.

City Councilmember Paul Koretz said in a statement that he was thrilled about the extra funding for the South Robertson Community Foundation's longtime plans to revitalize Robertson Boulevard between Cadillac Avenue and Kincardine Avenue.

"The grant money will allow us to further our goals of creating, attracting, and providing more community access, reducing commercial vacancies, improving parking while enhancing safety for those by car, foot, transit or bike," he stated. Garcetti launched the Great Streets Initiative in 2013. The Great Streets Challenge is the latest in a series of safety improvement projects throughout the city, according to the initiative's website.

LA Magazine

Watch This Heart Wrenching Reunion At LAX Of A Family Affected By Trump's Travel Ban

By Julia Herbst

Five days after a federal judge issued an emergency stay against President Trump's travel ban, Ali Vayeghan was the first person originally denied U.S. entry to be allowed to return. Mayor Eric Garcetti (who later shared this touching video on Facebook) was at LAX to welcome Vayeghan, along with members of Vayeghan's family, and the legal team who helped him.

Vayeghan—who is Iranian and has an immigrant visa—spoke to journalists after his arrival, according to the L.A. Times. His niece translated for him: "This is what humanity looks like," he said. "This is what human rights looks like. I am shocked, honored and awed. Please let them know I'm not mad at anybody. This is the greatest country in the world."

KPCC

Iranian man returns to LAX after being sent to Dubai under Trump executive order

Four days after a federal judge in Los Angeles issued an order for the return of an Iranian man who was denied entry at LAX and sent to Dubai as a result of President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, the man is back in Los Angeles.

Ali Khoshtakhti Vayeghan, an Iranian citizen with a valid visa, is the only traveler so far under Trump's order who has been allowed to return to the U.S. after being sent away, according to the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Vayeghan arrived early Thursday afternoon at L.A. International Airport, where he was greeted by family members and a crowd including Mayor Eric Garcetti singing Woodie Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land."

"I can't believe the mayor is here," Vayeghan said, hugging his niece. "This is what humanity looks like."

Ali Vayeghan, an Iranian citizen with a valid U.S. visa, left, is kissed by his niece Marjan Vayghan as his brother Houssein Vayghan welcomes him at Los Angeles International Airport on Feb. 2, 2017. Vayeghan had been turned away from LAX by President Trump's travel ban until a judge's ruling put the ban on hold. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Vayeghan's brother, Hossein Vayeghan, and his niece, Marjan Vayghan, were among those descending on the airport to welcome him, according to the ACLU. When Vayeghan emerged from a hallway into the Terminal 2 baggage claim area, Hossein and Marjan greeted him with hugs and kisses.

Hossein first came to the airport on Friday, when customs officials refused to provide answers about the whereabouts and well-being of Ali, Hossein said. Later that night he got a call.

"Somebody called my telephone and said sorry, I have bad news for you," he said. "In my culture, we say 'bad news for you' only when somebody is dead."

But Vayeghan wasn't dead. He was one of an unknown number of foreign travelers detained at LAX starting Friday as a result of the executive order temporarily banning people from seven Muslim-majority countries, including Iran, from entering the United States. Officials have not responded to requests to disclose how many people have been held. A New York judge blocked the ban Saturday, after 52-year-old Vayeghan had already been put on a plane to Dubai after Vayeghan signed a form withdrawing his application to enter the country. In Dubai, he was held in custody awaiting a possible return to Iran.

As the drama unfolded, hundreds of protestors descended on LAX and other airports across the country over the weekend.

On Sunday, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee granted a request from the ACLU and ordered Vayeghan returned to the U.S. But Immigration attorneys told KPCC customs officials refused to accept official service of the order and U.S. Marshals, who customarily serve federal court orders, also refused to deliver it. According to a source, it was because the order did not specifically require it.

Daily Breeze

Donald Trump supports LA bid for 2024 Olympic Games, organizers say

By Scott Reid

As the Trump presidency is increasingly seen as a liability to Los Angeles' pursuit of the 2024 Olympic Games, organizers on Friday reiterated the new administration's support of the bid while also emphasizing the city's diversity and inclusiveness.

Describing Los Angeles as "a city without cultural borders," Los Angeles 2024 chairman Casey Wasserman and chief executive officer Gene Sykes, speaking on a conference call, pushed a message that offered a clear contrast to the first two weeks of the Trump administration.

"L.A. is literally whatever you want it to be," Wasserman said. "The world lives here, and that's no exaggeration. There's no question that every global city, including our competitors in this race, are multiculturally diverse. But you know what makes a difference? The diversity of L.A. is the glue that holds it together. Ours is a diversity that unites our city instead of dividing it."

The call on LA 2024's submission of the 127-page Stage III bid book to the International Olympic Committee on Friday came shortly after Iran's official news agency reported the U.S. wrestling team would not be permitted to compete in a World Cup event in the western Iranian city of Kermanshah later this month.

The submission and call also came a week after Trump's executive order banning most citizens from Iran and six other mostly Muslim nations from entering the U.S. touched off calls for Los Angeles' bid to be withdrawn and raised questions about the viability of any American Olympic bid in the current political climate.

"It's important to remember just what it is we're bidding for," Sykes said. "Yes, we're bidding for the world's biggest sporting event. Yes, we're bidding for the economic benefits these games will undoubtedly deliver to our city. Yes, we're bidding for the chance to harness L.A.'s extraordinary creativity and innovation to develop a new games for a new era. But more than that, we're bidding to welcome back the world back to the United States and help the Olympic movement to fulfill its mandate."

"At the launch of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin said, 'We shall not have peace until the prejudices that now separate our nations have been outlived.' We're bidding above all else to unite the youth of the world in friendship and peace through sport to reassure future generations that the U.S. remains the most welcoming nation on Earth, that our ideals and the Olympic ideals are one and the same. And that Los Angeles is ready to serve the Olympic world once again."

Trump recently abruptly ended a call with Australia prime minister Malcolm Turnbull. He has also been sharply critical of NATO.

Australians have held influential positions within the IOC for at least the past three decades. Australia's John Coates is a current IOC vice president. Of the IOC's 95 members, 29 come from NATO countries other than the U.S. Another 16 IOC members are from non-NATO European countries.

Wasserman, however, said he had "no concerns" about an anti-Trump backlash influencing IOC voters.

"When we raised our hand for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it was because we believe in the power of the movement to unite the world," Wasserman said. "And that was an ability to unite the world through sport, not politics, and we believe that now more than ever. And I agree with (Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti), who said we'll be judged on the merits of our bid, not politics. Because the IOC has always acted in the interest of sport above politics, and we have no doubt the same will continue in this process."

Sykes said the bid has "very strong support from the administration."

"President Trump during the transition had a long conversation with Thomas Bach and expressed his support for LA 2024 and his enthusiasm for the Olympics," Sykes said.

LA 2024 and U.S. Olympic Committee officials were able to work with administration officials last weekend to ensure Iran's archery team would be able to travel to a World Cup competition in Las Vegas from Feb. 10-12.

"We have very direct relationships with very senior people in the White House, and when the travel ban on immigration or visitors from certain countries was announced on Friday, we realized there were problems. We immediately got in touch with senior people in the White House and their first response: 'We want to help you,'" Sykes said. "We know when we need to we can call on senior people. We've done that and we will continue to do whatever we need to make sure we accommodate sporting people, officials, athletes, etc., so that we make this process work. And I believe very strongly we'll

be able to do that.

City Council:

Endorsement: Blumenfield for another City Council term-not that there is any other choice

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/endorsements/la-ed-cd3-endorsement-20170202-story.html>

Donald Trump's Cabinet Picks! Insane appointees, LA Council outrage

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For LA Street Vendors, A Step Toward Legality

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For LA, California politicians, issues here should trump all

<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20170203/for-la-california-politicians-issues-here-should-trump-all-sal-rodriguez>

LA city attorney demands list of people detained at LAX under Trump's travel order

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Learn About The Sixth Street Viaduct Park

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HPP is in advanced talks to acquire Hollywood Center Studios for roughly \$200M: Sources

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Fanciful 52 story tower intended as gateway to Downtown Los Angeles

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Vermont Triangle poised for revamp with new planters

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Developer brings job training program to South Los Angeles

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Energy & Environment:

Editorial: Not enough listening at Aliso Canyon gas leak hearing

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/opinion/20170203/not-enough-listening-at-aliso-canyon-gas-leak-hearing>

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School board member or ...killer? Hard to tell

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-edu-zimmer-looks-like-killer-20170202-story.html>

Immigration Activists Group Alleges LAUSD Of Backpedaling On Promises

<http://www.kabc.com/2017/02/03/immigration-activist-group-alleges-laUSD-of-backpedaling-on-promise/>

For these North Hollywood students, fending off cyberattacks is a team sport

<http://www.dailynews.com/technology/20170203/for-these-north-hollywood-students-fending-off-cyberattacks-is-a-team-sport>

Homelessness & Poverty:

These Neat Housing Pods Were Designed By USC Student To Fight Homelessness

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Remembering The Victims: Four Years After The Christopher Dorner Shootings, Manhunt

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The Marijuana Breathalyzer Tops Police Departments' Tech Wish Lists

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San Fernando Valley crooks steal white vans by the dozen and sell the tools for big money

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170203/san-fernando-valley-crooks-steal-white-vans-by-the-dozen-and-sell-the-tools-for-big-money>

Young Woman's Body Dumped, LAPD Releases Video Of Her Final Moments In Hopes Someone Will Admit To Killing Her

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The LAPD's biggest conundrum: How to suppress crime without alienating LA's black residents

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Latino gang member accused of targeting African Americans in Highland Park is captured-15 years later

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Neighbors Dread Gangster Super Bowl Party At Marijuana Mansion

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Nicki Minaj hit by \$175,000 jewel heist at her LA home

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Port of Los Angeles:

Air quality board set to adopt smog plan with voluntary measures for ports, tougher measures for refineries

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Southern California's clean air board delays vote on 15 year plan

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Drawing looms for America's best blue collar job at Los Angeles and Long Beach ports

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NELA's Outsized New Riverside -Figueroa Bridge Speeds Car Traffic

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Metro may partner with private companies to speed up two big Measure M projects

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4 Ways To Get To The Parking Lot Deprived Culver City Metro Stop

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Service alert: Upcoming weekend closures for part of the Expo Line

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There's No Immigration Checkpoint At San Pedro And Pico, It's A Hoax

http://laist.com/2017/02/03/no_checkpoint.php



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 5:39 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, Cecilia Cabello home
<[REDACTED]>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado
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<yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Mayor Garcetti on the future of Los Angeles, his faith and Trump

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Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Weighs In On Immigration Debate

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Coalition of 1800 Southern California Jews criticizing Trump travel and refugee ban includes top LA politicians

<http://www.whittierdailynews.com/government-and-politics/20170301/coalition-of-1800-southern-california-jews-criticizing-trump-travel-and-refugee-ban-includes-top-la-politicians>

LA area Jewish leaders form coalition in response to Trump's executive actions of immigration and refugees

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Poll on LA mayoral race shows Garcetti with wide lead

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Eric Garcetti Skipping Tonight's Mayoral Debate

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Mitchell Schwartz mounts attack on Garcetti: Can it get him elected mayor of Los Angeles?

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The Argonaut's March 7 Primary Election Endorsements

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Election? What election? Apathy abounds as LA vote nears

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Judge grants restraining order against Black Lives Matter protester accused of threatening LA Police commissioner

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-police-commission-restraining-order-20170301-story.html>

Garcetti hasn't done a damn thing to stop collusion between politicians and developers: Measure S

<https://therealdeal.com/la/2017/03/01/garcetti-hasnt-done-a-damn-thing-measure-s-campaign/>

Measure S asks voters: How do we do density in LA?

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Can Los Angeles Homelessness Be Solved? The Mayor Thinks So (LINK ONLY)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/01/us/california-today-los-angeles-homelessness.html>

After a cameo in La La Land, Angel's Flight railway set to fly again by Labor Day

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Angels Flight expected to be reopened by Labor Day, officials say

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-angels-flight-20170301-story.html>

Angels Flight Railway To Reopen In DTLA By Labor Day

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As LA City Council incumbent Koretz seeks third term, opponent pushes for runoff

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Councilman Koretz fights for a third term on the Westside

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New restrictions on McMansions passed by LA City Council

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LA Council Approves Limits On McMansions

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In LA's Council District 7 race, no one's running away with this

<http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20170301/in-las-council-district-7-race-no-ones-running-away-with-this>

LA's Powerful Planning President

<http://www.losfelizledger.com/article/l-a-s-powerful-planning-president/>

LA keeps building near freeways, even though living there makes people sick

<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-me-freeway-pollution/>

Jewish Journal

Mayor Garcetti on the future of Los Angeles, his faith and Trump

No one can escape the challenges of Los Angeles — not even the mayor.

As voters prepare to take a stand on ballot initiatives that aim to impact homelessness, development and, yes, L.A.'s infamous traffic, no one can say Mayor Eric Garcetti can't relate. Just last week, he found himself ensnared in gridlock, 20 minutes late for an interview at the Journal's Koreatown office.

In the midst of a re-election campaign, Garcetti — the city's first elected Jewish mayor — said he's looking at the long-term. So while he's confident that Los Angeles is moving in the right direction, he promised no quick fixes.

"I never approached my first term as, you know, I have four years to change this city," he said in a freewheeling interview that covered topics as varied as city services to the city's response to President Donald Trump's executive orders to his own spiritual journey. "I think from the beginning, I've approached this job as an Angeleno, a lifelong Angeleno. And I kind of looked at the next decade to 50 years as the time horizon I wanted to influence. So I think my second term is very much similar to the first term, about being able to reach for great opportunities and address pressing challenges."

Garcetti, who faces seven challengers in this election, talked about his role in raising the minimum wage, and putting the heft of City Hall behind last November's successful ballot initiatives to fund transportation and homeless efforts to the tune of billions of dollars. Now he is campaigning for Los Angeles County Measure H on the March 7 ballot, which would raise the sales tax by 0.25 percent to provide drug and mental illness rehabilitation and prevention programs for the homeless. He's also come out against Measure S, the initiative that aims to reform land use, saying it would negatively impact affordable housing in the city.

The mayor — son of a Jewish mother and a father of Mexican and Italian heritage, former District Attorney Gil Garcetti — had plenty to say about his increased spirituality, as well, and how it's informed his response to recent events on a national level. (Garcetti has pledged to fight Trump's effort to deport undocumented immigrants, who number about 11 million nationwide, with 850,000 of them in Los Angeles County.)

In a roundtable discussion, arranged by Journal columnist Bill Bovarskv, Garcetti discussed all this and more. An edited

version of that conversation follows, for the full transcript, go to this story at jewishjournal.com.

JEWISH JOURNAL: Six years from now, what's traffic going to be like in L.A. if you're the mayor?

ERIC GARCETTI: We'll be on the way to relieving traffic, no doubt. I don't think it will be much better in six years. ... It's impossible to undo, you know, 40 to 50 years of urban planning in that short period of time. But I think the 10- to 20-year horizon is actually incredibly hopeful. We will build, you know, Measure M, \$120 billion, about half of that to new capital [projects]. To boil that down, that's 15 new lines or extensions of existing lines — the biggest, I think, physical change to this county since water came here. I don't think it's overstating.

JJ: What is homelessness going to be like at the end of the next term?

EG: I think we'll be more than halfway home. ... The biggest thing, I think, to end street homelessness is we need an army of social workers out there. I go out with these outreach teams all the time. I don't know if a mayor's done that before, but I go out as regularly as I can. I know people by their first names on the street now. I know their stories. And we had 15 people, trying to talk to 28,000 homeless Angelenos in the city of L.A. when I started. Just do the math. I've gotten that up to 80 through some city funds that I kind of have scraped along, but the reason I'm so passionate about Measure H is we probably need 500 or 600 — then we could really make an impact.

JJ: Talk about the deportations advocated by Trump. What are you prepared to do, and are you prepared to pay the price that you and the city might have to pay?

EG: Chief Justice [John] Roberts said [in a previous case that] the federal government cannot force you to do one thing in order to get money for another thing. ... It's very clear you can't take port money because my cops won't be turned into immigration officers. I'm not kidding myself that they won't potentially try to take some dollars from us: Bring that fight on. I mean, what are you going to do? Take away radiological and biological weapons detectors at the port? You're going to take away the vouchers that go to homeless vets that are now being housed and take away their rents?

I think this is a moment when [you should] stand up for your values, and we're prepared to do that politically, legally and economically. JJ: What obligations do you feel to Los Angeles' very large Jewish community?

EG: I feel a deep one. I feel my values have been informed by both sides of my family. When I look at something like my responsibilities to the Jewish community, [they] are both direct in what I can do to serve them, but also in what we can do to activate each other. [Like] when a moment comes like people turned away from our airport because of their religion or the country of their origin. I re-read the [S.S.] St. Louis history, which, the one aspect I didn't realize was, St. Louis wasn't just turned away [in 1939] because it was refugees and Jews. They actually said they were worried there was a national security threat of Nazi spies on there, which is like so much a mirror of what the justification is right now for Syria and Somalia and other places.

JJ: Have you talked to law enforcement about the threats against Jewish facilities?

EG: Yes, I've talked to LAPD about it. Absolutely.

JJ: Is it a major concern of yours?

EG: It's a concern. I've watched too many of us say the sky is falling before it actually falls, with this new administration and the change. I think we have to be really precise so that we don't let anything go under-commented on but we don't stoke the fears, as well. We've seen a doubling of hate incidents since the elections.

JJ: In Los Angeles? In the country?

EG: In Los Angeles. And that's not just anti-Semitic.

JJ: According to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)?

EG: Yeah. LAPD statistics. So that's what's been reported. I get [reports] once a month, and I've asked them to add hate incidents since the election so I can track it more carefully.

JJ: Last question: What have you learned from your text studies with Rabbi Sharon Brous of IKAR that's made you become a better mayor of Los Angeles?

EG: Well, you know, it's funny, like most good talmudic studies, you just sit around and gossip a lot. ... I've learned a lot. It's funny, I love being, for instance, in a Black church in South L.A. and bringing up the lessons she taught me about, you know, for instance that it was a sin in the olden days to pray in a room that was windowless, because you had to reflect the divinity. ... God isn't about going inward; it's about reflecting outward that divinity. And so I use that as a metaphor for what our responsibilities are — for us to not just close into our communities and close into our issues but actually reflect that divinity off of us. ...

It's not just with Sharon but with other folks as I've kind of come to more faith and spent a lot more time going to services. I actually love the High Holidays. I get to hear some really brilliant thinking that, you know, rabbis have tried to encapsulate an entire year. And there's, I would say, a real split right now between those who see this moment as a moment to stand up and be urgent and to possibly offend some folks that are in their congregations, and others who are playing it safer and saying look, we have diverse views, I can't get involved in that, but let me just talk about internal things. And, you know, I personally err toward the former. Whether you're a religious or a political leader, we're called on in these moments to stand up.

NPR

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Weighs In On Immigration Debate

By City News Service

Southland Jewish leaders have formed a coalition in response to President Donald Trump's executive actions on immigration and refugees.

More than 1,800 Jews — among them L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Attorney Mike Feuer, City Controller Ron Galperin and former County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky — signed a statement calling for the creation of Jews United for Justice

and Democracy. The coalition gathered the signatures last weekend.

The group said in a statement that it "is deeply concerned about rising threats to religious tolerance, equal rights, a free and fair press, human dignity, and long-held norms of decency and civil society." It added: "We will speak out and take action when our shared Jewish values require us to counter those threats."

The statement said the new coalition would work with fellow Americans in pursuit of three principles: "America is a nation of laws," "America is a nation of immigrants," and "America is a nation that aspires to equality, respect and justice for all people."

Whittier Daily News

Coalition of 1800 Southern California Jews criticizing Trump travel and refugee ban includes top LA politicians

<http://www.whittierdailynews.com/government-and-politics/20170301/coalition-of-1800-southern-california-jews-criticizing-trump-travel-and-refugee-ban-includes-top-la-politicians>

LA Times

LA area Jewish leaders form coalition in response to Trump's executive actions of immigration and refugees

By Ben Poston

Los Angeles-area Jewish leaders have started a coalition in response to President Trump's executive actions on immigration and refugees.

More than 1,800 Jewish people — including L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Atty. Mike Feuer and City Controller Ron Galperin — signed a statement calling for the creation of Jews United for Justice and Democracy.

The group "is deeply concerned about rising threats to religious tolerance, equal rights, a free and fair press, human dignity, and long-held norms of decency and civil society," according to the statement. "We will speak out and take action when our shared Jewish values require us to counter those threats."

The coalition gathered the signatures last weekend from more than 110 clergy members, L.A. County's entire state legislative Jewish delegation, seven current and former members of Congress, and 60 current and former elected and appointed officials.

We know what the costs are of remaining silent.— Zev Yaroslavsky, organizing committee member for Jews United for Justice and Democracy

The group's focus is on three guiding principles: America is a nation of laws, of immigrants and "aspires to equality, respect and justice for all people."

Zev Yaroslavsky, a former L.A. County supervisor and one of the six members of the group's organizing committee, said he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the coalition. He said the group will stand by refugees fleeing oppression as well as immigrants in the United States who "tonight as they go to sleep fear a knock on the door."

"This is something the Jewish community wants to speak out on," Yaroslavsky said. "It speaks to a thirst in our community to stand up and not be silent. We know what the costs are of remaining silent."

While the effort to form the coalition was undertaken before the recent desecration of Jewish cemeteries and bomb threats to Jewish centers in L.A. and other cities, those issues are also concerning, he said.

"This is part of the atmosphere that is plaguing our nation right now," Yaroslavsky said.

KPCC

Poll on LA mayoral race shows Garcetti with wide lead

In what appears to be the first publicly released poll on the Los Angeles mayor's race, incumbent Eric Garcetti holds a commanding lead over his opponents, and may be positioned for an outright win in the Tuesday primary.

A new poll conducted by Loyola Marymount University's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles finds that Garcetti is the only mayoral candidate with support in the double digits.

The poll shows that of the 950 self-identified registered voters surveyed, about 50 percent said they'd vote for the mayor. "Although we recognize the likely low-voter turnout in this election, these results show Garcetti's considerable influence and reputation in L.A., and indicate that he is in a strong position to win the upcoming election," said Brianne Gilbert, the center's associate director, in a written release.

Any candidate that wins 50 percent of ballots cast plus one vote can capture the office without facing a runoff in the general election on May 16.

In comparison to Garcetti's support, only about 8 percent of those surveyed said they'd vote for Mitchell Schwartz, the mayor's best-known challenger. Four percent said they would vote for "other."

A significant number of those surveyed, about 39 percent, said they didn't know who they'd vote for among the 11 candidates.

Garcetti had said he would agree to a debate if any of his 10 challengers drew at least 15 percent of the support in polls. Schwartz has been campaigning hard to push Garcetti into a general election runoff. He's repeatedly said he'd like to debate Garcetti.

Both candidates appeared on KPCC's AirTalk this week for one-on-one interviews.

LMU surveyed the 950 registered voters in Los Angeles in January and the early February. A larger sample size of 2,400 Los Angeles County residents were asked questions about their quality of life, economic concerns and other issues.

The margin of error of the poll was plus or minus 3 percent for the entire sample.

KPCC Board of Trustee Member Fernando Guerra worked on the poll along with Gilbert.

KABC

Eric Garcetti Skipping Tonight's Mayoral Debate

By James Rojas

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is being criticized for avoiding a mayoral debate tonight where ten candidates are expected to attend.

Garcetti's campaign spokesman says the mayor is skipping the debate because none of the candidates he's running against have a large base of support.

"I mean, if that's not the biggest bunch of crap ever. Come on."

Mayoral Candidate Mitchell Schwartz is accusing the mayor of only pursuing his own agenda.

"It's quite clear that he doesn't want to be here and he's going to run for governor and senator. If he wins again, he's going to turn around, run for governor and senator. He doesn't care about the people of Los Angeles."

The debate is being held at the Sona Sotomayor Learning Academies and begins at 7. Doors open at 6.

Jewish Journal

Mitchell Schwartz mounts attack on Garcetti: Can it get him elected mayor of Los Angeles?

By Eitan Arom

Mitchell Schwartz doesn't think so highly of his incumbent opponent in the upcoming March 7 city election, but on one score, he admits that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has him beat.

"He's much better looking than me," Schwartz during a recent interview at a Silver Lake café.

Schwartz is tall and broad, with a nose that has been broken, the combined effect of which makes him look like a former boxer. He jokes that he broke his nose "fighting for the people." (In fact, it was a series of sports injuries.) But if he is to defeat an electoral heavyweight like Garcetti, Schwartz will have to land some major political punches. By most accounts, he's a serious underdog.

A former State Department official under President Bill Clinton, Schwartz has the best name recognition and fundraising operation among a group of seven otherwise obscure challengers, having raised nearly \$450,000. The next best-funded candidate is Paul E. Amori, a homelessness activist who often appears in a red sequined suit and bow tie, who has raised \$5,631. Meanwhile, Garcetti has collected more than \$3.5 million for his campaign.

Badly outspent, Schwartz, who is Jewish, is mounting an unrelenting critique of the incumbent. Schwartz points out that in Los Angeles, housing prices are up. In 2016, the violent crime rate rose 10 percent, the third consecutive year-over-year increase. The number of people living on the street has been on the rise since 2009, including an 11 percent increase from 2015 to 2016 alone, and now stands above 28,000. The city faces a staggering pension liability of \$8.2 billion and has a Department of Water and Power (DWP) many say is in dire need of reform. Amid all this, Schwartz alleges, Garcetti has been a nonentity, demonstrating "a complete lack of leadership."

What's more, Schwartz claims to know why.

"Garcetti, unfortunately, has what I call the politician's disease," Schwartz told the Journal. "He's so desirous of going to higher office that instead of expending political capital on dealing with issues, he just tries to accumulate it and coast through and not deal with these tough situations."

It's the reason Garcetti hasn't reformed the DWP or decentralized the city's byzantine school district, and why he hasn't pressured Veterans Affairs to house homeless veterans in its West L.A. campus, Schwartz said. He called Measure HHH, a \$1.2 billion countywide homeless housing bond shepherded by the mayor and approved in November's election, "obviously an election gimmick" to help Garcetti's chances, though Schwartz said he voted for it anyway in the hope that it would help the homeless problem.

The mayor disputes the fundamental premise of Schwartz's criticism.

"Anybody's analysis that you can store up political capital and spend it later is a little bit naïve," Garcetti said. "It's not like you can keep it in a bank like money. It can change in an instant. So you better be spending it every day like I do, to do big and bold things."

The mayor argues that just because he's not picking fights doesn't mean he's standing still. "People mistake a bloody nose for accomplishments," he said.

He cited his stewardship of a \$120 billion transportation measure and a \$1.2 billion homelessness bond passed on the November ballot as battles he has fought and won, along with his successful push for a \$15 minimum wage.

On the veterans homelessness charge, Garcetti political strategist Bill Carrick said the mayor has "worked very hard at it. ... We haven't eradicated it but that's the direction we're headed." The mayor alleges to have housed 8,000 homeless veterans and says he would solve the issue entirely if more veterans weren't finding themselves on the streets of L.A. daily.

Schwartz's critique extends not just to Garcetti's actions but also the political culture he says the mayor inspired during his tenure as city council president and subsequently as mayor. He described the city's attitude toward building and development as haphazard, painting a picture of city councilmen trading votes over code deviations. (Carrick called this accusation "just silly.")

On Measure S, a package of slow-growth reforms on the March city ballot, Schwartz has declined to take a position, saying he's wary of the measure's mechanisms but understands the sentiment of communities feeling disenfranchised by the development process. The mayor, on the other hand, firmly opposes the measure.

with few vocal detractors, Garcetti could coast to an easy victory. That outcome would be unsurprising given the mayor's celebrity persona and large network of connections — he recently received no less an endorsement than from former President Barack Obama (a somewhat awkward situation, given that Schwartz chaired Obama's California campaign in 2008).

But it would be a mistake to treat the election as a foregone conclusion, according to Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC.

"Under most normal circumstances, it would be almost impossible for an insurgent like Mitchell Schwartz to mount a credible challenge against a well-liked incumbent mayor," he said. "But these are not normal times."

The past 18 months have sent political predictions haywire, Schnur said, foiled by widespread disgruntlement among voters. Schnur compared the mayoral race to the recent Democratic presidential primary, with Garcetti cast as Hillary Clinton and Schwartz as her firebrand challenger, Bernie Sanders.

"He wants to be the insurgent," Schnur said of Schwartz. "He wants to be the voice of all the frustrated, angry progressives who don't feel like they're being heard by traditional politicians. The challenge he faces is twofold: Garcetti is not nearly as inviting a target as Clinton and Schwartz doesn't have nearly the megaphone that Sanders had."

In Los Angeles, disaffection among voters often is focused on the cost of housing. Measure S, for instance, finds its political base in activists who see luxury development threatening the character of L.A. neighborhoods. The city council's willy-nilly zoning policy is "what spawned Measure S," Schwartz said.

It may be unsurprising that Schwartz has put a critique of Garcetti front and center of his campaign.

"[As a challenger], you have to convince people that the first-term incumbent hasn't done an especially good job to warrant a second term," former L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told the Journal. But, he added, "I don't think he can make that case against Eric Garcetti."

If there is a winning case to be made against Garcetti, Schwartz seems determined to find it. For instance, he's challenged Garcetti to pledge he would serve out the entirety of an unusually long 5 1/2-year term afforded by a change in election laws; Garcetti has yet to respond to that challenge.

"He's not going to make some pledge because Mitchell Schwartz thinks somehow he's going to get some traction from it," Carrick said. "The job he's running for is mayor. That's the job he's trying to get re-elected to."

Few observers doubt that Garcetti eventually will seek higher office.

"Let's face it — is there anyone who believes that after this term that he will not attempt to see if there is any opportunity for higher office?" said Frank Zerunyan, a USC professor of governance and longtime friend of Garcetti. "And to be honest, he deserves it."

Schwartz has argued that Garcetti's political ambitions hamper his effectiveness as mayor. "This is a steppingstone for him," Schwartz said. "It's not OK."

As befits an unusual political climate, Schwartz is an unusual candidate to lead L.A.

"I never expected to [run]," he said. "Never, never, never."

At 56, Schwartz has never held elected office. Instead, his political experience is mainly as a campaign operative.

In 1992, he managed Clinton's presidential primary campaign in New Hampshire and subsequently became communications director for the Clinton State Department. Since then, he's held leadership roles in public relations and environmental firms, and helped campaign for political candidates, including former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Sen. Diane Feinstein.

Unlike Garcetti, whose religious orientation often flies under the radar despite his status as the city's first elected Jewish mayor, Schwartz — from his name to his appearance — is unambiguously Jewish.

Growing up in an Orthodox family in Queens, N.Y., he attended the well-regarded Yeshiva of Flatbush. After moving to Los Angeles in 1996, he became involved in Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles and eventually became vice president of Temple Israel of Hollywood, though he stepped down to focus on his mayoral run. He and his wife sent their three children to the temple's elementary school.

Schwartz recognizes that he's up against tough odds. Nonetheless, he sees an avenue, if a narrow one, to City Hall.

"We do this polling," Schwartz said. "He's got decent numbers. He's got pretty good numbers. But when you push people — like, 'Well, what has he done?' — they cannot answer."

A recent statement from Schwartz campaign manager Josh Kilroy alleged, based on random-sampling polls, that Schwartz's name recognition is up. The campaign estimates the mayor is polling at around 50 percent. Meanwhile, a poll conducted by an Orange County opinion research firm from Feb. 16-19 put Garcetti's approval at 65 percent. He needs only 51 percent of the votes to avoid a runoff.

"All I can do is just keep working night and day and get out there," Schwartz said.

As the interview wound down, Schwartz turned to two young people hunched over laptops at the next table.

"Excuse me, are you guys from L.A.?" he asked. "I'm running for mayor of L.A."

Daily Bruin

City Election: Garcetti for mayor

While the Los Angeles mayoral candidate field is crowded, it's clear Eric Garcetti is the king of the hill. And Los Angeles voters would be remiss not to give him a second term.

This board endorses Garcetti for mayor because of his innovative outlook, his accomplishments as the current mayor of LA and — most importantly — his experience.

Back in 2013, Garcetti assured voters, among many things, that he would fix potholes on the streets, help improve LA's rampant traffic congestion, work towards more affordable housing and restructure the LA Department of Water and

power. And over the past four years, he has accomplished — or at least started to address — these very issues.

For example, Garcetti helped launch a data collection and mapping system that allows citizens to request a multitude of city services, such as graffiti removal, pothole repair and bulky-item pickup. He helped author and pass Measure M in November, which provides funding for LA to revitalize and revolutionize its transportation system to meet the city's growing transit needs. And he has pledged to build 100,000 new affordable housing units by 2021 and put a referendum on November's ballot to overhaul the LADWP to allow for more community oversight.

There is undoubtedly no better choice for mayor than Garcetti. None of his opponents come close to competing with his qualifications and track record.

However, this accolade is not without reservations about his governing style. Throughout his tenure, Garcetti has had trouble consistently making difficult political decisions. Be it attempting to overhaul the LADWP or protecting his vision of LA's housing, Garcetti has tended to ride the coattails of city propositions instead of taking the initiative himself as mayor to lead major citywide efforts. The measures have been doing the heavy lifting over the past four years — not the mayor's office itself.

Certainly, the city has been blessed with an economic boom and improved infrastructure these past four years, and Garcetti can be thanked for some of that. But the mayor needs to be willing to take more creative risks to solve LA's long-lasting problems, like crime and homelessness.

LA deserves a mayor with qualifications and ideas. Garcetti is the clear winner for the first criterion and the only candidate showing the aptitude for the second.

Argonaut

The Argonaut's March 7 Primary Election Endorsements

L.A. County Measure H

This quarter-cent sales tax increase will generate \$350 million per year to fund the case management services necessary to get homeless people into the housing that last fall's \$1.2-billion affordable housing bond is expected to create. One doesn't work without the other. Vote Yes on Measure H.

L.A. City Measures M & N

Measure M empowers the city to tax and regulate recreational marijuana; Measure N would enact different rules written by Big Weed. Vote Yes on Measure M and No on Measure N.

L.A. City Measure S

If Los Angeles could take a page from the Trump playbook and build a wall to keep Midwestern cultural refugees from moving here, Measure S would be a great idea. But in the real world, curtailing new construction in the middle of a crisis-level housing shortage is bad policy. Rents are already so high that some natives can't afford to stay here, and reducing supply in the face of increased demand will make rents go up. Measure S would address several bad city policies and stop bad projects that are out-of-scale with their surroundings, but it would also halt the necessary conversion of surplus light-industrial or commercial zones into high-density residential areas.

What L.A. needs most is more affordable housing, but even new luxury housing can have a positive impact. All those Westside tech workers have to live somewhere, and it's not going to be Cleveland. While pricey apartments in Playa Vista may seem like they're making everything more expensive, they're actually taking market pressure off existing nearby neighborhoods. Preventing zoning changes for large projects would likely redirect developer dollars into exploiting existing zoning rules that already allow for converting single-family homes into small apartment buildings, doubling down on urban sprawl. Vote No on Measure S.

Mayor of Los Angeles

Mayor Eric Garcetti has had a pretty good run so far, and in this 11-way race he's the only candidate with the vision and experience to do even better by the residents of a city he so clearly loves. Vote for Eric Garcetti.

Los Angeles City Council

Venice neighborhood activists Mark Ryavec and Robin Rudisill may be big-time underdogs against council incumbent Mike Bonin, but don't dismiss the concerns of their supporters. Ryavec embodies the anger and frustration of homeowners dealing with quality of life issues created by a pattern of negligence by L.A. City Hall that predates its current occupants. Rudisill embodies righteous indignation about new development — not so much the big projects addressed by Measure S, but the widespread loss of community character one small parcel at a time.

Only Bonin, however, has demonstrated the combination of temperament, empathy and political knowhow required to balance competing interests while crafting broad-minded solutions to a wide array of issues, from combating homelessness in Venice to reversing LAX expansion into Westchester. Vote for Mike Bonin.

LAUSD Board of Education

This is the toughest call on Tuesday's ballot, and fortunately that's because it forces us to choose among three really solid candidates: Allison Holdorff Polhill, Nick Melvoin and current LAUSD Board President Steve Zimmer.

Zimmer is a responsive public servant who makes a compelling case for a third term. He helped navigate LAUSD out of the darkest days of state budget cuts, and he's confronted brutal competition for limited resources among Westsiders without losing sight of what's best for kids. We applaud his service.

But Melvoin's candidacy is also part of LAUSD's legacy during Zimmer's tenure. The Harvard and Loyola Marymount University graduate was a middle school teacher in Watts when the recession hit and, like so many other bright young teachers, lost his job to seniority-based teacher layoffs. Now he works as an education consultant and adjunct faculty member at LMU.

Massive outside political spending (much of it benefitting Melvoin) has sought to recast this election as a fight between

charter groups and the teacher's union over the political balance of the LAUSD board. But Melvoin is no puppet. He promises to pursue a middle path of seeking compromise between charters and the union in order to move past the status quo of rigid ideological loyalties that have dominated board politics for the worse. "If unions don't get on board with some reform," Melvoin told us, "the [political] right is going to come with a battle axe after us" — which is exactly how charter advocates have been able to gain as much traction as they already have. We wish both Zimmer and Melvoin could represent Westside voters on the LAUSD Board, and we hope both advance to a runoff in May so we'll have more time to compare and contrast them. But there's only one way that can happen. Vote for Nick Melvoin.

LA Times

Election? What election? Apathy abounds as LA vote nears

By Michael Finnegan

Tabitha Benoy of Woodland Hills plans to skip Tuesday's election for mayor of Los Angeles.

"It's never even occurred to me to vote for the mayor," said Benoy, a 37-year-old social worker who tends to vote for president and not much else. "It seems like there's so many elections. It's too much to deal with."

Conditions are ripe for dismal voter turnout next week. Mayor Eric Garcetti faces only token opposition in his run for a second term. Nothing else on the ballot — including measures on marijuana and homelessness — has stirred much voter passion. And the rancor of the 2016 presidential race has left many voters exhausted.

In that climate, Los Angeles stands a good chance of hitting a record low for turnout in a mayoral election, upholding its reputation as a bastion of voter apathy.

"I don't really even know the mayor's name, to be honest with you," said 25-year-old Jackie Riddle of Brentwood, an independent-living instructor for adults with disabilities.

In Riddle's social-media circles, President Trump's daily dramas dominate conversation these days. "There's constantly people posting about that, but nothing local," she said on a coffee break with a client in Westwood.

Recent interviews with nearly two dozen voters across Los Angeles made clear their overwhelming disengagement from local affairs. Many of them knew little or nothing about Garcetti.

"We're lazy," said Victoria Gonzalez, 53, who was walking her dog Trixie near her home in San Pedro. "That's what it comes down to — just being lazy and thinking one vote isn't going to help."

Gonzalez was unaware that a city election was coming up. The media she consumes, she said, is too focused on the rich and famous, and not enough on local news.

The waning of L.A. politics coverage as news outlets have shrunk in recent years has indeed left many residents uninformed about what's at stake on the ballot.

"I think it's really hard for people to answer how my life will be different if I vote for 'Candidate A' or 'Candidate B,'" said Jessica Levinson, a Loyola Law School professor who specializes in campaigns and elections.

L.A.'s confusing patchwork of place names adds to the problem, leaving many voters unsure whether they reside within the city's boundaries.

Kojo Annor, 40, who has lived in the area for more than 20 years, wanted to vote for Garcetti next week. But Annor, a biotech engineer and immigrant from Ghana, didn't realize that his move last year from Woodland Hills to Castaic made him ineligible to vote in the city election.

"Really?" he asked with a quizzical smile when told that he no longer lives in Los Angeles.

Sean Clegg, a Bay Area consultant who has worked on mayoral campaigns in both L.A. and San Francisco, said Los Angeles has one of the nation's most apolitical urban cultures. "It's a place so sprawling that a sense of community, and of your ability to have an impact on that community, feels much more like a drop in the ocean," he said.

Mayoral elections in San Francisco often draw about double the voter turnout that they do in Los Angeles.

Kiyomi Kowalski of West Hills, with her daughter Kennedy, 10, and son Moses, 2. Kowalski, who attended a recent President Trump resistance meeting in Silver Lake, says: "The reason we have Trump is we are not as engaged as we should be, and it all starts locally." (AI Seib / Los Angeles Times)

The reason we have Trump is we're not as engaged as we should be, and it all starts locally.— Kiyomi Kowalski

Racial strife has at times driven high turnout in L.A. It peaked at 76% in 1969, when Tom Bradley was running to become the city's first black mayor. It spiked again when Richard Riordan was elected mayor in 1993, reaching 45% in the aftermath of riots sparked by the acquittal of white police officers in the beating of Rodney King, an African American. But turnout dropped to a new low of 18% in 2009, when Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa won reelection after a somnolent race against largely unknown challengers.

Four years ago, even after a hard-fought and well-publicized race between Garcetti and several well-known rivals, just 21% of registered voters cast ballots in the primary for mayor.

In a heavily Democratic city where Trump has inspired big protests, one of the unknowns on Tuesday is whether voters' newfound engagement in national politics might manifest itself in a boost in turnout, defying strategists' expectations.

"The reason we have Trump is we're not as engaged as we should be, and it all starts locally," said Kiyomi Kowalski of West Hills as she strapped her toddler into a car seat after shopping in Woodland Hills. Kowalski, 38, attended a recent Trump resistance meeting in Silver Lake. She planned to vote for Garcetti on Tuesday.

In 2014, city voters approved a switch in the election calendar in an attempt to produce higher turnout. Starting in 2020, L.A. elections will occur at the same time as state and federal contests in even-numbered years, with a June primary and November general election. If Garcetti wins reelection, his term will last 5 ½ years, with a successor chosen in 2022.

Whether the shift in election timing will change the habits of voters like dentist Lin Lagunda of Panorama City is unclear.

She sometimes votes for president, but never for mayor.

"I'm bad — I should," she said on a trip to the bank after work. She said she wished the demands of everyday life left more time for things like voting. "All I know is I'm working, and I pay my bills, and I take care of my kids."

LA Times

Judge grants restraining order against Black Lives Matter protester accused of threatening LA Police commissioner

By Cindy Chang

A judge Wednesday granted a restraining order against a Black Lives Matter activist who is accused of threatening the president of the Los Angeles Police Commission and appearing at his home and law office.

The city had sought the order against Trevor Ferguson, who, according to court declarations, had targeted commission President Matt Johnson at public meetings and referenced Johnson's children.

Ferguson has denied the charges.

But Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted the restraining order, saying that "any parent would be concerned" by Ferguson's mentioning Johnson's son at a Police Commission meeting and then visiting Johnson's home.

After more than an hour of testimony from Johnson, Ferguson and others, Goodson concluded that Ferguson's intent was not to protest but to "incite fear." The restraining order requires Ferguson to stay away from Johnson and his family.

Ferguson can continue to speak at Police Commission meetings but must keep a five-yard distance from Johnson.

A temporary order with the same restrictions has been in effect since Dec. 20.

Following the hearing, Johnson said that he supports the 1st Amendment, but that Ferguson had gone too far.

"The right to protest has led to tremendous gains for people who look like myself and Mr. Ferguson," Johnson said. Both Johnson and Ferguson are black. "It's something I deeply respect. But there is a line, and for me, that line is when you threaten the safety of my family. Like any father, I'm not going to apologize for taking steps to protect the safety of my family."

Ferguson's attorney, Nana Gyamfi, said Johnson's fear of Ferguson was based on race.

"It's ridiculous that he used a method and procedure people use to protect themselves from actual violence ... to protect himself from embarrassment," she said.

Gyamfi said that the restraining order's impact goes beyond Ferguson and could erode 1st Amendment rights for other protesters.

"By the time you look up, your rights have been gutted," she said. Ferguson likely will appeal the decision, she added.

After the hearing, Ferguson would say only, "Great is Allah," in response to questions.

Ferguson is part of a group that often disrupts the Police Commission's weekly meetings by chanting and speaking out of turn. Members contend their aim is to express outrage at Los Angeles Police Department shootings of black and Latino people.

Johnson is one of two African American police commissioners. At meetings, Ferguson and others have called Johnson a "houseboy" — a derogatory term for a black person who is in league with whites — amid demands that LAPD Chief Charlie Beck resign and the entire department be disbanded.

In a court declaration, Johnson alleged that Ferguson made a "gratuitous reference to his children" at a November Police Commission meeting and stated at another meeting that Johnson should be scared of him.

At various meetings, Ferguson has mouthed threats to Johnson, including that he would beat up Johnson and kill him, according to the declaration. Because the threats were not spoken aloud, there is no recording of them, the declaration said.

In an interview with The Times in December, Ferguson, 35, defended his actions as lawful protesting, saying he has never crossed the line from insults to threats. He has never mouthed anything at Johnson, he said.

"To say I threatened him with physical harm is a gross overstatement and out of proportion," said Ferguson, a rap artist and music producer who is also known as Trevor Gerard.

The five police commissioners, who volunteer their time, provide civilian oversight of the LAPD, setting policies, recommending reforms and reviewing incidents when officers use force against civilians — including fatal shootings.

Johnson is the managing partner of entertainment law firm Ziffren Brittenham, where he negotiates contracts for celebrities, producers and professional athletes, such as Serena Williams and Oprah Winfrey. He is the father of four children ages 4 to 20.

He has advocated for de-escalation techniques that would help reduce the number of LAPD shootings, but that has not exempted him from angry verbal attacks from the activists, who complain he has not done enough.

According to Johnson's court declaration, the reference to his children occurred at a Police Commission meeting Nov. 1.

In an official audio recording of the meeting, Ferguson stated that Johnson has four children, one of whom is a boy.

Ferguson then drew a connection between Johnson's son and African American victims of police violence, saying he hoped Johnson would not become a grieving parent.

"You have not only chosen the side of men like Charlie Beck and [Mayor] Eric Garcetti, you have chosen to be their errand boy," Ferguson continued. "So run, boy, and tell your masters: The city is ours now."

Johnson's declaration cited another incident from the Dec. 13 commission meeting. Ferguson made statements during public comment and from the audience that Johnson should feel scared of him and suggesting that the two men meet outside of a board meeting, the declaration said.

On the official audio recording of the meeting, Ferguson spoke about crime and the community before stating: "Ultimately,

I know you guys don't care — and I see the houseboy Matt Johnson over on his phone or whatever, like this.

Ferguson then referenced human rights abuses and the lawlessness that might result from "zero accountability."

"When 4 million people realize how [messed up] you are, you will not be able to stop that tide," he said. "And it's coming. And it's coming for all of you."

On Dec. 16, the declaration said, Ferguson went to Johnson's law firm in Century City with other protesters. He managed to get past the receptionist and into the elevator, which is operated with key cards, arriving at Johnson's 10th-floor office and "angrily demanding to speak to me," the declaration said.

Johnson was not there, but one of his law partners made Ferguson leave.

Two days later, Ferguson went to Johnson's Sherman Oaks home in the late afternoon, the declaration said. Johnson's wife and children were home, and Ferguson was detained by police.

Ferguson told The Times in December that he visited Johnson's office and home with a group of people who were protesting peacefully.

The activists sought out Johnson on his home turf because speaking at Police Commission meetings, which are held at LAPD headquarters, no longer was enough, Ferguson said.

"We felt the people on the board were allowed to be complicit in violence, basically to be a rubber-stamping body," Ferguson said. "It was time to engage them in other spaces, where the playing field was more even."

The Real Deal

Garcetti hasn't done a damn thing to stop collusion between politicians and developers: Measure S

Backers of Measure S are going after Mayor Eric Garcetti for not yet delivering on a pledge to ban private conversations between real estate developers and city planning officials.

Garcetti said in September that he planned to prohibit such ex parte communications, but has yet to issue an executive directive on the matter, the Los Angeles Times reported.

"It was a ploy," Jill Stewart, campaign director for Yes on S, told the Times. "It got him some good press ... and he hasn't done a damn thing."

Garcetti's office maintains that the executive directive will be released soon. The process entails research, legal consultation and input from various stakeholders, according to spokesperson George Kivork.

Meanwhile, opponents of Measure S point out that the ballot measure itself doesn't ban such meetings or prohibit developers from contributing to the political campaigns of city officials.

Backers counter that, by prohibiting general plan amendments and the practice of "spot-zoning," developers will no longer have a reason to donate extensively to politicians.

Last year, the California Assembly voted down a proposal to ban ex-parte communication between California Coastal Commission officials and real estate players. Opponents of that proposal argued that the ban would hinder free speech.

The measure's on Garcetti follows statements last week from the Mayor that Measure S had used his image and statements out of context in their campaign advertisements — in order to indicate that he supported the measure, which he does not. He said the mailers were a "dirty trick."

Jewish Journal

Measure S asks voters: How do we do density in LA?

By Eitan Arom

Gustavo Flores sees his fight against a local development project as a struggle for the character of his neighborhood.

In late 2014, a developer rolled out plans for four restaurants and a bar a few blocks from his Westlake home, on an intersection with three nearby schools. To Flores and his allies, it was a disaster, an example of development gone wrong.

What's more, nobody in the city establishment seemed to be listening — not the local police captain, not the neighborhood council, not Gilbert Cedillo, the city councilmember for the East Los Angeles neighborhood.

"They're never looking out for us," Flores said of City Hall. "They care about the people with the big bucks."

So when he heard about Measure S, an initiative on the March 7 ballot that would restrict dense development and impose sweeping land-use reforms, he was heartened. Somebody was finally talking his language.

And it wasn't just talk. Since last year, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), led by president Michael Weinstein, has funneled more than \$4.5 million into the campaign. Effectively, Weinstein has bankrolled a conversation about how and where Los Angeles will develop, galvanizing a patchwork of neighborhood advocates into a unified front against city politicians.

But even if the measure passes, serious questions linger about what effect it will have and whether it will accomplish the goals it sets out. The most controversial item in the measure is a two-year moratorium on construction projects that use exceptions from the city to build denser than would otherwise be allowed.

Other provisions would change the way environmental impact reports are compiled and rule out the practice of "spot zoning" that allows the city to carve out parts of neighborhoods for different uses. Advocates hope these changes will help stem a rise in housing costs and bring equity to L.A. building policy.

"It's really a matter of equality and whether or not Los Angeles is going to become a rich ghetto like Manhattan or San Francisco," Weinstein told the Journal.

Consensus and contention

Few observers are thrilled with the way Los Angeles approaches housing. Most agree that outdated planning documents mean big projects proceed on a case-by-case basis, with developers approaching City Hall to bend the rules when they want to increase density.

The city has decided that they want more density along transit corridors, but the plans don't provide for it," said Century City-based land-use attorney Benjamin Reznik.

He agrees with proponents of Measure S about the need to update the General Plan and 35 community plans that govern construction in L.A., but he called the initiative ill-conceived and poorly written, pointing out that it fails to provide funding for the community planning process it mandates. "It's not going to achieve the goals they want to achieve," he said.

Yes on S campaign director Jill Stewart described the city's approach to land use as "piecemeal, piecemeal, piecemeal." She argued that the process is governed through shady backroom deals, with developers rewarding politicians for approving their projects through campaign funds.

"They're planning L.A. by which developers reward them the most," Stewart said. "And it's — it's insane, really."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who has loudly opposed the measure, flatly rejected the claim in an interview with the Journal.

"Outdated zoning and community plans is a real problem," he said. "That cozy relationship is not."

Garcetti dismissed those who paint a picture of corruption as "conspiracy theorists." As for the fact that community plans are outdated, "Well, I didn't need Measure S to tell me that," he said.

In his first budget, the mayor said he put a premium on hiring city planners to accelerate the process of updating L.A.'s planning documents. Still, he estimated those plans will take six to seven years to fully update.

A survey of 300 Angelenos by independent polling firm Probolsky Research found in February that 46 percent were planning to vote against Measure S while 34 percent planned on supporting it. But if it passes, Garcetti said the city would move the most outdated community plans to the front of the queue for revision in order to allow development to proceed.

Nonetheless, the picture he painted is not a pretty one.

"If you think homelessness is bad now, Measure S will make it worse," he said. "And, even though we have a prosperous economy, we will lose jobs."

And it's not only the mayor, but also some community activists who make the economic argument against the measure.

"It will be devastating," said Rabbi Jonathan Klein, executive director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, an L.A.-based community-organizing group. "Millions and millions of dollars, if not hundreds of millions, will be lost."

Measure S would mostly impact large projects that increase housing capacity, according to analysis by the UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies.

A small proportion of construction projects require the type of exception banned by the two-year moratorium, the analysis suggested, pegging that proportion somewhere below 27 percent. Between 2011 and 2016, that amounted to fewer than 4,000 units.

Still, "exceptions are important tools to build higher density," the report noted, since they're mostly used to green light larger development projects. For instance, it pointed to a complex in Reseda that houses 240 low-income people on the former site of an under-utilized church. The project would not have been allowed under Measure S. Projects like the Riverwalk at Reseda are cited as evidence that the measure would be self-defeating and actually make neighborhoods less affordable.

Critics also insist it would stymie efforts to house the homeless.

"We can't necessarily build our way out of [the homeless] crisis, but dampening the production of more housing is going to make the problem worse," said Amy Anderson, executive director of PATH Ventures, the development arm of People Assisting the Homeless (PATH).

But advocates say that logic is faulty since the measure would target luxury units rather than affordable ones. Grace Yoo, a community leader in Koreatown and former city council candidate, dismissed allegations that Measure S would increase rents and homelessness.

"They go, 'Well, if you don't build more luxury units, you're going to cause more homelessness,'" she said. "And we're going, 'In what world is that true?'"

Crossed wires on homelessness

In theory, the measure's moratorium allows low-income housing proposals to seek exceptions for zoning and height, but not amendments to the city's General Plan.

Anderson said a review of the measure's language by knowledgeable members of PATH's board, including former L.A. city planning director Con Howe, found "there's in fact not an exception for affordable housing" since many affordable housing projects require General Plan amendments to proceed. What's more, Measure S could get in the way of Measure HHH, the \$1.2 billion bond for homeless and affordable housing construction voters approved in November, she said.

Garcetti has proposed 12 city-owned properties as sites for bond building. "Eleven of those 12 would be dead in the water if S passes — they require General Plan amendments," he said.

Weinstein's solution is simply to look elsewhere. "There are thousands of sites across the cities where you could build housing," he said.

Populist or pest?

To his critics, Weinstein is a busybody whose electioneering is simply a ploy to stop a construction project that would block the view from his Hollywood office. To his proponents, though, he's a crusader for empowering community advocates over real estate barons running roughshod over their neighborhoods.

"I am grateful that there's someone willing to stand up to the bullies of City Hall," Yoo said of Weinstein's efforts.

But even though AHF has put up nearly 99 percent of the funds behind Measure S, Weinstein insists the conversation should not be about him, but rather about who the city council truly represents.

"They want to make it about me because they want to change the subject," he said of his detractors in City Hall. "Because they're doing the bidding of the billionaires, and they don't want that talked about."

In April, he made an enemy of one of those billionaires when he sued to stop a pair of condo towers slated to go up

across the street from Art's offices on Sunset Boulevard. Since then, the developer of that project, Crescent Heights, run by Israeli real estate billionaire Sonny Kahn, has poured more than \$1 million into the No on S campaign, or more than 60 percent of the campaign's total budget in 2016. Crescent Heights declined to comment on the donations. Weinstein points to the preponderance of developers against his measure as a sign that he's on the right track (though labor groups such as the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations also are major contributors to the No on S campaign).

The nonprofit director says his motives are entirely altruistic. He insists he's doing his job by trying to help the AIDS and HIV patients his organization serves, and who are disproportionately hurt by the housing squeeze.

"In the broader sense, you have to look at the social determinants of health," he said. "Health is not restricted to medications and doctors and nurses."

Cause and effect

The most common criticism of Measure S is that it won't do what proponents say it will. Even if one assumes backroom dealing exists, for instance, Measure S "doesn't even begin to address" that problem, said Reznik, the land-use lawyer. "If you want to take the politics out of land use, take zoning power out of the hands of the councils and put it in the hands of planners," he said.

Reznik is among a class of city planning professionals who have lined up behind Garcetti's contention that "land use by referendum is usually a bad idea in the first place."

"The chances of solving this from the ballot box are very, very small," said Marlon Boarnet, chair of USC's Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis.

Among his colleagues, Boarnet says he finds few, if any, who support Measure S. He said he personally views the measure as a wrongheaded attempt that will impede the city's growth.

"As much as I want to respect neighborhoods, Los Angeles has hit a moment where we need to think as a city," he said. Thinking as a city means increasing density along transit corridors, he maintains, even over the complaints of some communities.

Weinstein is unfazed by the critics. He insists the moratorium will help break City Hall of its dependence on campaign funds from donors, resulting in smarter development in the long run.

"You have to take the crack pipe away from the addict at some point," he said.

For local advocates like Yoo and Flores, Weinstein and his foundation's millions represent an evening of the score between the little guy and billionaire developers.

Flores, 27, an aspiring law student with four children, has lived in Westlake over the course of a decade when property values climbed rapidly and dense development began to seem inevitable. He's not looking to stop development in its tracks but wishes it would happen in a smarter way.

"I know development's gonna happen, and in my opinion, it's good," he said. "But let's have responsible development."

Daily News

After a cameo in La La Land, Angel's Flight railway set to fly again by Labor Day

By City News Service

Los Angeles officials say the Angels Flight railway, which has been closed since one of the cars jumped the tracks in 2013, will be reopened by Labor Day under a new partnership that will include safety upgrades.

The historic Angels Flight railway, which has been closed since one of the two rail cars came off the tracks in September 2013, will reopen by Labor Day with a new operator, city officials announced today.

Thanks to a 30-year agreement with the ACS company, the short funicular on Bunker Hill will be upgraded and renovated, and safety improvements will be made, including the installation of an emergency walkway along the short route.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Jose Huizar were among those taking part in the announcement, which was made in the shadow of the railway and its twin cars, Sinai and Olivet. The railway had a brief cameo in the Oscar-nominated musical "La La Land," with stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone seen seated in one of the rail cars, then exiting through the gate at the top of the hill.

The Metro Board of Directors approved a motion by Garcetti in 2015 to study ways to re-open Angels Flight, which travels a short distance along Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles.

Angels Flight is a "very important part of our transportation system" and fills "a special place in the hearts of Angelenos," Garcetti said at the July 23, 2015, meeting when the motion was approved.

There were six people riding the funicular when it had its most recent accident, but none were injured. A National Transportation Safety Board report released a month later indicated that railway operators had been using a tree branch for months to bypass a safety feature on the railcar.

The nonprofit Angels Flight Railway owns Angels Flight's equipment, including its tracks and cars, and has a ground lease that allows it to operate the funicular, according to its president, Hal Bastian. He said federal officials and the California Public Utilities Commission were requiring Angels Flight's operators to build a walkway next to the tracks before operations can resume.

Col. J.W. Eddy first opened a funicular rail up Bunker Hill on Dec. 31, 1901, when rides cost a penny. It was dismantled and put into storage in 1969 because of the Bunker Hill urban renewal project, then rebuilt and reopened in 1996, a half-block south of the original site.

In 2001, an accident that killed one person and seriously injured seven others prompted another closure that lasted nine years. Angels Flight reopened in 2010, in time for the railway's celebration of its 110th anniversary on New Year's Eve 2010.

The CPUC shut it down for almost a month in June 2012 when inspectors found that a wheel part that holds the cars on the track, the flange, had been worn down to a thickness that was unsafe on three of eight wheels. The funicular re-opened July 5, 2012, after the operator installed all new wheels made of harder steel. When it most recently was in operation, the railway still used its original cars from 1901, named Olivet and Sinai.

LA Times

Angels Flight expected to be reopen by Labor Day, officials say

By Laura Nelson

Angels Flight, the iconic downtown funicular that has been dormant for more than three years, could be operating again by Labor Day under a new agreement announced Wednesday.

A team led by the ACS company will assume responsibility for repairing, modernizing and operating the railway over the next three decades, officials said.

"At a moment when downtown is experiencing this resurgence, the timing couldn't be better," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference at the base of the 298-foot railway.

Angels Flight and its twin cars, named Sinai and Olivet, have sat dormant since a derailment in 2013 that left the sole passenger, a tourist from Australia, shaken but unhurt.

The funicular's spotty safety record, including the death of a passenger in a crash in 2001, attracted the attention of state regulators, who have refused to allow Angels Flight to resume operations without a series of potentially costly safety upgrades.

Those requirements include raising the height of the train's doors to prevent passengers from being flung out during a sudden stop and installing a walkway connected to the track that riders could use if they had to evacuate.

Angels Flight officials have not revealed the expected cost of repairs, except to say it would be a "very significant number." Railway President Hal Bastian has unsuccessfully urged the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to take control of Angels Flight.

As Angels Flight sits dormant, an adjacent 153-step stairway has served as the only direct pedestrian connection linking Bunker Hill's high-rise apartments and offices with the tacos, pastrami and lattes at Grand Central Market.

The steps often are strewn with trash. On a recent weekday, after a torrential rainfall, the stairs were dotted with fast-food wrappers, a soggy pair of shoes and a handful of lottery tickets dissolving in a puddle.

Wednesday's announcement is the latest twist in the long saga of the world's shortest funicular.

Opened on New Year's Eve in 1901, the iconic orange cars of Angels Flight once shuttled residents of luxe Victorian homes on Bunker Hill to jobs in downtown L.A.

By the 1950s, the railroad had carried more than 100 million passengers. But as residents moved to the suburbs, downtown fell on hard times. The funicular closed in 1969 as crews bulldozed Bunker Hill's old housing to make way for skyscrapers.

The twin rail cars sat rotting in a warehouse for decades until redevelopment authorities included funding for renovating the funicular in the California Plaza project. Angels Flight reopened in 1996, half a block south of its original location, carrying passengers on a 33-degree incline between Hill and Olive streets.

In 2001, Sinai broke loose near the top of the incline and plummeted down the track, striking Olivet. The impact killed an 83-year-old tourist from New Jersey on vacation with his wife and injured seven other people.

Investigators later concluded that faulty mechanical and brake systems, combined with weak oversight, led to the crash. The railway was closed for the next nine years. Not long after Sinai and Olivet began running again, state Public Utilities Commission inspectors briefly halted operations after finding "excessive and abnormal wear" on the car's wheels and tracks.

After the 2013 derailment, federal officials found other issues. A report issued by the National Transportation Safety Board said the funicular's operators had used a tree branch to override the safety system, which had been causing unexpected stops.

After the derailment, one passenger climbed out of the car and crawled along the tracks toward the upper platform, state regulators said.

The funicular sat dormant for nearly two years even as the clamor to reopen the line grew louder.

At the urging of Garcetti, who at the time was the chair of the Metro board, transportation officials there agreed to study the issue and make a recommendation on how to resume operations. Staff members later recommended that the nonprofit organization that manages the funicular perform a "detailed analysis" of the funding, staffing and maintenance requirements, and left it at that.

ABC Los Angeles

Angels Flight Railway To Reopen In DTLA By Labor Day

The historic Angels Flight railway, the beloved short-distance funicular in downtown Los Angeles, is expected to reopen by Labor Day after being closed since 2013.

Mayor Eric Garcetti made the big announcement at a news conference held at the bottom of the historic railway on Wednesday.

Garcetti said the beloved railway will reopen by Labor Day 2017.

According to the mayor, the California Public Utilities Commission has certified a plan to operate Angels Flight by high safety standards. He said the Angels Flight Railway Foundation and ACS Group recently finalized an agreement to recondition, operate and maintain the funicular for the next 30 years.

At a moment when downtown is experiencing this resurgence, the timing couldn't be better," Garcetti said.

The funicular, which is touted as the world's shortest railway, closed in September 2013 after one of the two rail cars came off the tracks.

"When thousands of Angelenos signed a letter to me testifying on behalf of the beloved railway, I heard you," the mayor said.

When it was most recently in operation, the railway still used its original cars from 1901, named Olivet and Sinai.

Col. J.W. Eddy first opened a funicular rail up Bunker Hill on Dec. 31, 1901, when rides cost a penny.

"I can't promise the same prices that folks were paying in 1901. I can say that MTA will be giving a 50 percent discount on fares for all Metro TAP card holder," he said. This discount will be valid for the next three years.

The railway was dismantled and put into storage in 1969 because of the Bunker Hill urban renewal project, then rebuilt and reopened in 1996, a half-block south of the original site.

Angels Flight, which travels a short distance between Hill and Olive Streets on Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles, was recently featured in the movie, "La La Land."

The railway has given more than 100 million rides along its hillside track, city officials said in a news release.

LAist

Historic Angels Flight To Reopen Labor Day 2017

By Tim Loc

Angels Flight, everyone's favorite funicular, is returning by Labor Day. The announcement was made during a noontime press conference on Wednesday with Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar.

A release said that the reopening is made possible through a public-private partnership between ACS Infrastructure Development Inc and the nonprofit Angels Flight Railway Foundation. Other key partners were involved in the project to revive Angels Flight, with Metro and the City of Los Angeles also taking part. Speaking on efforts to get the funicular up and running again, Garcetti said that it was "The longest journey to the shortest ride ever."

The mayor added that the reason why it closed in 2013 was because of operational issues; the L.A. Times reports that it had derailed. Sitting idle for years, Angels Flight had become a target for graffiti.

Garcetti emphasized his confidence that Angels Flight will be running in the best condition possible when it reopens. "I will be here riding it myself. That's how confident I am in these engineers," said Garcetti.

We'll be updating with more information.

CBS Los Angeles

Downtown LA's Historic Angels Flight Railway To Reopen By Labor Day, Officials Say

The historic Angels Flight railway, which has been closed since one of the two rail cars came off the tracks in September 2013, will reopen by Labor Day with a new operator, city officials announced Wednesday.

Thanks to a 30-year agreement with the ACS company, the short funicular on Bunker Hill will be upgraded and renovated, and safety improvements will be made, including the installation of an emergency walkway along the short route.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Jose Huizar were among those taking part in the announcement, which was made in the shadow of the railway and its twin cars, Sinai and Olivet. The railway had a brief cameo in the Oscar-nominated musical "La La Land," with stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone seen seated in one of the rail cars, then exiting through the gate at the top of the hill.

The Metro Board of Directors approved a motion by Garcetti in 2015 to study ways to re-open Angels Flight, which travels a short distance along Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles.

Angels Flight is a "very important part of our transportation system" and fills "a special place in the hearts of Angelenos," Garcetti said at the July 23, 2015, meeting when the motion was approved.

There were six people riding the funicular when it had its most recent accident, but none were injured. A National Transportation Safety Board report released a month later indicated that railway operators had been using a tree branch for months to bypass a safety feature on the railcar.

The nonprofit Angels Flight Railway owns Angels Flight's equipment, including its tracks and cars, and had a ground lease allowing it to operate the funicular, according to its president, Hal Bastian. He said federal officials and the California Public Utilities Commission were requiring Angels Flight's operators to build a walkway next to the tracks before operations can resume.

Col. J.W. Eddy first opened a funicular rail up Bunker Hill on Dec. 31, 1901, when rides cost a penny. It was dismantled and put into storage in 1969 because of the Bunker Hill urban renewal project, then rebuilt and reopened in 1996, a half-block south of the original site.

In 2001, an accident that killed one person and seriously injured seven others prompted another closure that lasted nine years. Angels Flight reopened in 2010, in time for the railway's celebration of its 110th anniversary on New Year's Eve 2010.

The CPUC shut it down for almost a month in June 2012 when inspectors found that a wheel part that holds the cars on the track, the flange, had been worn down to a thickness that was unsafe on three of eight wheels.

The funicular re-opened July 5, 2012, after the operator installed all new wheels made of harder steel.

Downtown News

Angels Flight To Reopen By Labor Day

By Nicholas Dayton

Angels Flight has been out of service for three and a half years. If all goes according to plan, the funicular known as the "world's shortest railway" will reopen by Labor Day.

Mayor Eric Garcetti today announced that a public-private partnership has been worked out that will allow a safety ramp to be built for the railway connecting Bunker Hill to Hill Street. The California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates Angels Flight, has refused to allow it to resume operations until that is installed.

Angels Flight will reopen through a public-private partnership with the Madrid-based ACS Group and the engineering firm SENER, which will work together as the Angels Flight Development Company. That entity has a 30-year contract to operate Angels Flight. Representatives from ACS and SENER said this will be their first project in Downtown Los Angeles.

Garcetti said his office has been working on the partnership for just over a year. The railway has been closed since a derailment in 2013.

"Year after year we saw this city grow, and one thing remained: Angels Flight was here," Garcetti said during an event at the base of Angels Flight. "It became an icon for this city, joining the Sixth Street bridge [and] the Hollywood sign as landmarks immortalized."

Angels Flight opened in 1901, and operated for nearly seven decades. It closed in 1969, then returned in a new location in 1996.

The revival was short-lived, as the railway closed following a fatal accident in 2001. The funicular's drive system and other elements were replaced, and it resumed operations in 2010.

That return, however, also proved temporary, and there were periodic shutdowns. After the September 2013 derailment, a blistering report from the National Transportation Safety Board found a number of shortcomings, including operators in the control booth using a tree branch to manually override an automatic stop order.

The Angels Flight Railway Foundation, a nonprofit run by volunteers that operated the funicular, made numerous fixes, but the CPUC refused to allow operations to resume until an emergency walkway was built next to the tracks.

Angels Flight Cameo is a No-No

Even though the funicular is not running, the Angels Flight Railway Foundation has been spending nearly \$6,000 each month on maintenance and insurance, according to Adele Yellin, chair of the board for the foundation. The funicular most recently had a short cameo in the Oscar-winning film *La La Land*.

Rides in the past cost 25 cents. Prices for the restored funicular have not been set, but Garcetti said Metro TAP card holders will get a 50% discount for three years.

The Angels Flight Development Group will be making safety improvements including building the emergency walkway.

There will also be upgrades on the doors of the Sinai and Olivet cars.

Garcetti called the extended effort to bring Angels Flight back "the longest journey to the shortest ride ever."

LA Business Journal

DTLA's Angels Flight Railway To Reopen By Labor Day

By Howard Fine

The historic but troubled Angels Flight railway in DTLA will reopen to the public by Labor Day, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Wednesday.

The 116-year-old, 298-foot funicular that descends from Bunker Hill to the Historic Core – touted as the world's shortest railway – was shut down after a derailment in September 2013. That followed a nine-year shutdown after a railcar broke loose in 2001, raced down the hill and collided with a railcar at the bottom, killing one passenger and injuring seven.

Since the 2013 mishap, the nonprofit Angels Flight Railway Foundation, that manages the railway, led a complete overhaul of the rail system, installing new mechanical and electrical systems designed to prevent derailments of runaway railcars. The new system also had to pass muster with the California Public Utilities Commission, which oversees rail safety.

"Angels Flight is a cultural gem that tells an unforgettable story about the history of Los Angeles," Garcetti said in a statement. "Today, we celebrate the rebirth of this iconic attraction - and once the modernization is complete, we will welcome millions of visitors from around the world to experience it with us."

To make the reopening possible, the Angels Flight Railway Foundation and ACS Group, a Madrid, Spain-based engineering and construction firm, finalized an agreement last week to recondition, operate and maintain the funicular for the next 30 years, the statement from Garcetti's office said. Sener Engineering, of Gexto, Spain and Dragados USA of New York are also on the project team.

In addition to its tourist draw, the funicular will serve as an important transit connection between the Pershing Square Metro station and the top of Bunker Hill - an area that includes Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Broad Contemporary Art Museum, MOCA, the Los Angeles Music Center, among other cultural institutions. As part of the agreement, Metro tap card holders will receive a 50 percent fare discount for the next three years.

"It is truly a historic day for one of Los Angeles' most recognized treasures," Councilman José Huizar, who represents downtown, said in a statement. "It is our hope that this public-private partnership ensures the new Angels Flight will be safe, economically sustainable and - once again - a key Los Angeles cultural centerpiece for years to come."

LA Magazine

Angels Flight Railway Is Finally Reopening And We Can't Contain Ourselves

This is big, guys. Angels Flight—that long-defunct, deeply beloved orange funicular between Grand Central Market and Bunker Hill downtown—is finally, finally making its return.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Jose Huizar were present this afternoon to announce the historic mini-railway's reopening (it was shut down in 2013 after a series of accidents). It's set to reopen on Labor Day, which, honestly, is longer than any of us want to wait to fully experience the city like Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, but hey, we'll take it.

Kim Cooper and Richard Schave—founders of Esotouric and perhaps Angels Flight's most vocal devotees—have been gunning to get the funicular operational again for years, launching a Kickstarter campaign in 2015 that has finally paid off. They were on site live-tweeting the announcement.

KPCC

As LA City Council incumbent Koretz seeks third term, opponent pushes for runoff

By Mary Plummer

One of the most competitive Los Angeles City Council contests that voters could decide next week pits the incumbent against two challengers – one with a large campaign war chest to leverage.

Councilmember Paul Koretz is running for his third term representing District 5. Covering communities like Bel Air, Encino, Hollywood and Westwood, the district is among the wealthiest and well-educated among the council's 15 represented areas.

Koretz' challengers are Mark Herd, who has been active in several community groups and is the founder of the Westwood Neighborhood Council, and attorney Jesse Creed.

Among the challengers in the eight City Council contests on Tuesday's primary election ballot, Creed is the top campaign fundraiser, with the exception of one candidate running for the open District 7 seat in the San Fernando Valley.

Creed has collected about \$298,800 in contributions, as of the latest filing deadline, but is trailing incumbent Koretz who has about \$440,300 in contributions. Both Koretz and Creed also accepted public matching funds. Herd has not reported any fundraising.

Creed claims he's gained significant local support by walking the district's neighborhoods. He said he has spent three to five hours a day since December knocking on doors.

"Our donation base comes from individuals, people with a pulse, not PACs, corporations or LLCs. And it comes from people who live in and around the city," he said.

Koretz points toward accomplishments like helping to save the Century Plaza Hotel, boosting code enforcements and his work on environmental issues. He is well-known as an advocate for animal rights and worked to outlaw declawing cats and puppy mills in Los Angeles.

For his next term, Koretz said he'll be able to get more done for constituents thanks to funding improvements, a reference to improved city revenues since the recession.

"We'll trim more trees, but we've been doing that already. We'll fix more streets, but we've been doing that already. We have money committed to fix sidewalks and we'll do that more aggressively," he said.

Creed promises he will only be beholden to voters and he's taken a pledge not to accept any money from developers or lobbyists.

"I will be an independent voice for the neighborhoods, for residents, for the basic issues that people care about on a day-to-day basis," he said.

Koretz dismisses Creed's charges that the incumbent is beholden to developers. Koretz took heat for his handling of the developer Rick Caruso's high-rise residential building project located across from the Beverly Center.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Koretz received \$2,200 in donations from Caruso. After the story ran, Koretz removed his support for the project, and then ultimately restored his support after Caruso lowered the project's height by 55 feet.

Koretz told KPCC "it didn't turn out perfectly." He said he'd intended to remove his support for the project all along unless it was shortened, but was motivated to act faster when the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association held a press conference to voice strong opposition to the project.

"At the end of the day, I think it was the right compromise," Koretz said.

He called Creed's campaign "the most shockingly negative" that he's ever seen.

"Every developer in town knows I've been their worst enemy," Koretz said. "The idea that contributions have made me any less independent, I think, is absurd."

Despite the Caruso project controversy, Koretz was among five incumbent City Council members endorsed by the Los Angeles Times. The newspaper praised him for caring "deeply about his district and his constituents" and for making himself available to them.

On the other hand, the Los Angeles Daily News endorsed Creed, noting his work as an advocate for homeless veterans and what it described as his broad knowledge of district issues.

Koretz also has the backing of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and several politicians like Mayor Eric Garcetti.

If no candidate reaches the majority threshold of 50 percent of voter support plus one vote in the primary, then the top two vote-getters will move on to the general election on May 16.

Voters who are still undecided on the District 5 race can check out KPCC's candidate survey, which features the candidates' backgrounds and answers to campaign questions.

Councilman Koretz fights for a third term on the Westside

By Dave Zahniser

The last time Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz ran for reelection, he had an easy time of it.

Koretz's lone opponent in 2013 spent less than \$98. The councilman sent a few mailers and breezed to victory, capturing 75% of the vote in his affluent Westside-to-Encino district.

The competition is more intense in this year's run-up to Tuesday's election, thanks largely to a challenge from Jesse Creed, an attorney who has tapped a reservoir of campaign donations from lawyers and the entertainment industry.

In debates and in campaign mail, Koretz and Creed have traded charges over ethics, real estate development and the influence of special interests. The campaign's overall cost has already exceeded \$750,000.

Creed went on the attack early, slamming Koretz for accepting tens of thousands of dollars in donations from real estate interests — a practice that, while legal, has become more controversial amid a citywide debate over growth. He contends that a "pay-to-play culture" at City Hall is resulting in poor planning, congested streets and an overburdened infrastructure.

"Political money leads to bad developments that are not transit-oriented," said Creed, who lives in L.A.'s Beverly Grove neighborhood. "And bad developments that are not transit-oriented lead to a ton more traffic."

Koretz, also a Beverly Grove resident, has turned the tables on Creed, filing a complaint accusing him of illegally coordinating with an outside campaign group. Creed has denied that claim.

The councilman also says he has a track record of standing up to special interests, including those who have donated to him, by opposing projects ranging from Bel-Air mansions to the sprawling Playa Vista development.

Koretz also voiced support for full public financing of campaigns, saying such a measure would address the perception that "pay to play" influences council decisions.

"I can't say that's absolutely untrue of every council member. But I can say that of me," Koretz told one debate audience. "If you look at the projects I've opposed, I've ticked off my supporters. I've ticked off labor especially."

Development has been a long-standing issue in Koretz's 5th Council District, which takes in such well-to-do communities as Bel-Air, Beverly Crest, Carthay Circle, Cheviot Hills and Westwood. But the topic is especially potent this year, thanks to the campaign over Measure S, which would put new restrictions on construction of housing, shops and offices.

Creed and Koretz oppose Measure S, saying it would impede efforts to build affordable housing. A third candidate in the race, political consultant Mark Herd, favors the proposal, saying it will address traffic and the influence of political money.

"The only way we stop this corruption in government is if we vote yes on Measure S," Herd said at a Westwood campaign event.

Herd challenged Koretz unsuccessfully in 2013, then went on to lose races for Congress and U.S. Senate. As of Feb. 18, he had not reported raising any money, relying instead on Facebook and other methods to spread his message.

Council District 5 has some of the most organized neighborhood groups in the city, which have used their money and clout to square off against well-funded developers and lobbyists.

Koretz, for his part, says he has been the most "anti-development" member of the council — with the possible exception of Councilman David Ryu, who was elected in 2015. At the same time, he portrays himself as someone who works to ensure that developers and their critics work together and hash out their differences.

"Every developer wants to build in CD 5," he said. "And almost every resident wants nothing built."

A political veteran, Koretz has served in the state Assembly and on two City Councils — first West Hollywood, later L.A. He is backed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, who employs his wife, and an array of other politicians. Despite his assertion he antagonized unions, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has spent more than \$105,000 to help him win a third term.

Koretz has touted his wide-ranging support from neighborhood leaders. And he has repeatedly portrayed Creed as an opportunistic newcomer with no record of accomplishment in the district.

"It's just odd," he told The Times. "You rarely see someone run for office as a serious candidate that has done nothing in their district."

Creed disagrees with that assessment, pointing to his work helping to develop a plan for constructing 1,200 units of homeless housing at the Veterans Affairs campus in West Los Angeles. Although that facility is just outside the 5th District, it will serve veterans across the Westside, he said.

The Toronto-born Creed spent four years with the firm Munger, Tolles and Olson specializing in nonprofit law, then quit to run for council full time. He continues to sit on the board of Equitas Academy, a group of charter schools.

Creed contends that Koretz has been follower, not a leader, on issues that emerged during the campaign. One example, he said, was Koretz's decision last fall to support a 20-story residential tower near the Beverly Center.

Creed came out against the project at a Dec. 30 news conference, saying it was too tall and needed more affordable housing. Hours later, Koretz abruptly called his own press event at the same intersection, announcing he had rescinded his support and wanted more concessions.

After developer Rick Caruso reduced the project's height and offered more money for affordable housing, Koretz backed it again.

Koretz hailed the result as a compromise. But Century City resident Greg Laemmle, a Creed supporter, believes Koretz acted only because an opponent had brought up the issue.

"If the issue hadn't been raised in that fashion, Paul would have been happy to let it go forward as it was," he said.

Creed contends he also led on campaign finance, by promising early in the campaign not to accept donations from real estate developers. Later on, Koretz signed on to a council proposal to bar developers from giving donations to city elected officials.

Koretz said that proposal would not have garnered support from so many council members before the campaign. Creed

countered that Koretz had years to build consensus. I've led and Paul has followed, he said.

That view was not shared by Steven Luftman, a resident of South Carthay who has worked with Koretz to prevent rent-controlled apartments from being demolished — and tenants from being evicted.

Luftman praised Koretz for championing a proposal to put new limits on mansionization, the practice of building extra-large homes on small lots. Koretz also showed courage, he said, in creating a new historic district in Carthay Square despite pushback from some property owners, he said.

"I have dealt with [Koretz] on multiple occasions," said the 55-year-old art director. "And he has always done the right thing."

If Koretz fails to secure more than 50% of the vote, the top two candidates will face off in a May 16 runoff. L.A. voters have a long history of siding with incumbents, making that scenario less likely.

Since 1995, incumbents at City Hall have won reelection in 64 out of 67 contests.

CBS Los Angeles

Garcetti: City Should Refund Drivers Ticketed By Faulty Camera

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Wednesday that the city should refund potentially hundreds of drivers who may have been wrongfully ticketed by a faulty photo-enforcement camera in Watts.

On Monday, CBS2 exposed a faulty photo-enforcement camera at the Metro Blue Line crossing at East Century Boulevard and Grandee Avenue. At the intersection, the traffic light remains green at the same time the crossing gates come down.

CBS2 learned that in 2015, 34 photo enforcement tickets were issued at the intersection. In 2016, there were 807, an increase of more than 2,000 percent. If all paid, that equates to almost \$400,000 in fines.

Last August, William Taylor of Watts received a \$490 red light citation in the mail. Taylor decided to fight the ticket, pushing his case before the MTA. In January, an agency chief admitted, "I have reviewed the merits of your claim and frankly, I agree with you. I believe the light phasing is confusing for traffic and that you should be refunded."

MTA spokeswoman Paula Tonilas told CBS2 that because of Taylor's case, the intersection is now being redesigned. Another traffic light will be added to remove confusion. However, since last month, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has not stopped issuing tickets at the intersection despite the ruling on Taylor's case.

On Wednesday, Garcetti, who is the first vice chair of the MTA Board Of Directors, told CBS2 that wrongfully ticketed drivers should "absolutely" get their money back.

"I would encourage MTA to refund those dollars, and for the sheriff to stop issuing those tickets until it's fixed," Garcetti said. "Certainly I would vote for that as an MTA leader."

In 2014, CBS2 exposed city traffic officers issuing tickets for street cleaning in areas where the tickets shouldn't have been written. Garcetti ordered a refund there as well.

"The cost was a couple of million dollars, but I think it was the right thing to do and I think Metro should as well," Garcetti said.

When asked earlier about why people who may have wrongly been issued tickets were not being given refunds, Tonilas responded, "Well, we're not going to be in the practice of letting people off the hook who broke the law."

The MTA issued the following statement to CBS2 Wednesday evening.

"While Metro believes the light phasing and traffic light placement at the Century/Grandee crossing conforms to industry standards, due to concerns expressed, Metro will stop issuing citations at this intersection while we continue to review this matter and work with the City of Los Angeles to enhance the intersection with an additional near side traffic light."

KPCC

New restrictions on McMansions passed by LA City Council

Los Angeles is making moves to prevent the construction of larger, boxy homes on small lots, a common practice of real estate developers known as "McMansions."

After March, developers will have to follow a new set of amendments to the city's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, a law that determines how big a new single-family home can be in relation to its lot size.

The City Council unanimously approved those amendments on Wednesday.

The news comes as a relief to neighbors with smaller, older homes, Councilmember Paul Koretz, who represents parts of the Westside, told KPCC. Many residents in his district want to limit the construction of large, towering McMansions that can block sunlight, reduce street parking options and look out of place in older neighborhoods. The amendments also include restrictions on sharp, boxy angles on roofs.

"People have been the most upset about giant stucko boxes, lot line to lot line," Koretz said. "It blocks their air, it blocks their sunlight and it ruins the character of the neighborhood."

The movement to restrict the development of McMansions started several years ago in Beverly Grove, where more than 60 new homes fitting that characterization went in, angering neighbors who had smaller homes, Koretz said.

The City Council decision was inspired by the community, he said. When drafting and approving the amendments, the council took into account emails from residents concerned about McMansions, he said.

"Please support us and our neighbors who all feel that our quality of life in the hills really depends upon doing something about the overpowering massive developments by flippers and developers who only care about maximizing square footage for profit," wrote Emily Boyle and Jon Biddle of Los Angeles in an email to City Council.

Other residents asked for restrictions on front-facing garages, which can take up several hundred extra square feet, Koretz said.

Excluding attached garages from floor space is like weighing yourself with one foot on the scale," Koretz said one resident told him.

But garage square footage wasn't included in the new amendments, he said, which would likely continue to be a debate topic between neighbors.

The amendments passed by the council will head to Mayor Eric Garcetti's desk for a final signature this week, and will go into effect in late March.

CBS Los Angeles

LA Council Approves Limits On McMansions

The Los Angeles City Council Wednesday approved amendments to an ordinance that further limits the size of so-called "McMansions."

In a 12-0 vote, the council approved an update to the city's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, applying to single-family homes on lots that are less than 7,500 square feet. Such properties are currently allowed to have floor areas that are 50 percent of the lot size, but under the amendment will be reduced to 45 percent.

"Every street has one now," Westwood resident Steve Rogers said. "We have four of these boxes on our street right now. In one case, there are two. One on either side of a little Spanish 1,500 square-foot house."

"It's extreme, it's not a small problem it's a big, big thing."

The council also unanimously approved an amendment that creates incentives for building detached garages or placing garages in the rear of a home by exempting them for the first 400 square feet from the size of the home, while garages that are attached at the side will have a 200-square-foot exemption.

It also approved the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, which puts limits on homes built on hillsides. The amendments still require the signature of Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Some property owners like the amendments, but don't want to limit their options.

"We don't want mansions in our neighborhoods, but I think that we wanted to have a little bit more leniency, but we're OK with what happened," Beverlywood resident Lauren Gans said.

"Tons and tons of requirements," Gans added. "It'll be interesting to see what happens when the people start submitting plans and how they're going to get approved and how that's going to work."

Homes that are bigger than typically built in a neighborhood, or that dominate the footprint of the property they are located on, often referred to as McMansions, were limited in the original Baseline Mansionization Ordinance that passed in 2008.

But the measure fell "far short of its mandate to create regulations that allow for sustainable neighborhoods and that protect the interest of all homeowners," L.A. City Councilor Paul Koretz wrote in the motion creating the amendments.

Some people are worried, however.

"Realtors and developers think it's bad for business," Rogers said.

"We paid a lot of money for our property in L.A. and we need to make sure we protect our property rights and get the increased value that we're entitled to based on making an investment in our home," Gans said.

Daily News

LA City Council approves amendments limiting size of McMansions

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council Wednesday approved amendments to an ordinance that further limits the size of so-called "McMansions."

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The council also unanimously approved an amendment that creates incentives for building detached garages or placing garages in the rear of a home by exempting them for the first 400 square feet from the size of the home, while garages that are attached at the side will have a 200-square-foot exemption.

The council also voted to put new limits on homes built on hillsides.

"We've been working on this issue for years. This is an exciting day. We have finally passed our Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and Baseline Hillside Ordinance," Koretz told City News Service. "They are considerably stronger than they were. I think this will be an end to giant boxy homes that tower over their neighbors."

The amendments still require the signature of Mayor Eric Garcetti, but he is expected to sign them, Koretz said.

Homes that are bigger than typically built in a neighborhood or dominate the footprint of the property they are located on - often referred to as McMansions - were limited in the original Baseline Mansionization Ordinance that passed in 2008.

But the measure fell "far short of its mandate to create regulations that allow for sustainable neighborhoods and that protect the interest of all homeowners," Koretz wrote in the motion creating the amendments.

Daily News

In LA's Council District 7 race, no one's running away with this

By Elizabeth Chou

The 7th District Los Angeles City Council election in the northeast San Fernando Valley could be shaping up into an unpredictable race, with many of the 20 candidates campaigning with gusto, whether they are operating on shoestring budgets or spending from war chests large enough to fill voters' mailboxes with frequent campaign fliers.

The variety and number of candidates — who as a group have raised more than \$785,000 in campaign donations

topping most other council races — means that many observers are not putting much money on an outright winner in the March 7 primary.

Rather, a runoff is a widely expected scenario in which the top two vote-getters, neither receiving more than 50 percent of the vote, would square off in the May general election.

"I don't see anyone running away with this like four years ago, when (Felipe) Fuentes came in and he was the established person," said Kevin Davis, president of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council.

Instead, support is all over the place, with "different candidates ... appealing to different groups," Davis said.

The candidates are seeking to fill a seat that was left empty by Fuentes, who stepped down midterm in September to take a job as a lobbyist in Sacramento.

The winner will represent the communities of Sunland-Tujunga, Pacoima, Sylmar, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills and North Hills in a district that offers an intermingling of typical San Fernando Valley suburban neighborhoods and rural communities in proximity to the Angeles National Forest.

Many of the candidates have zeroed in on the proposed high-speed-rail route, which would run through horse-riding country in their district and has fired up much of the electorate in the 7th District. Most, if not all, of the candidates have stated some form of opposition to the bullet train plans, whether it is to an above-ground proposal or to any route at all. Other major issues that have caught on in the race include homelessness, real estate development that may increase the density of neighborhoods, the lack of name-brand retail shops and stores in some parts of the district, and the availability of firefighting resources in areas that are affected by forest fires.

Candidates with big funding, major endorsements and the backing of labor unions are expected to have a natural advantage on Tuesday, which is anticipated to have low voter turnout based on past elections held at the same time.

Candidates with these advantages include Mission Hills resident Monica Rodriguez, who has reported raising more than \$329,000.

A former public works commissioner, Rodriguez has been endorsed by Mayor Eric Garcetti and most members of the City Council and has the support of the police, firefighter and other labor unions.

Rodriguez has also received \$100,000 in matching city funds and benefited from an extra \$214,000 in independent expenditure donations that were reported on the Ethics Commission website over the past three weeks..

Karo Torossian, of Sunland-Tujunga, follows behind Rodriguez in fundraising, reporting more than \$231,000 in donations. He has also received more than \$77,000 in city matching funds. The City Council planning director was also endorsed by his boss, Councilman Paul Krekorian, and has long been active in San Fernando Valley-area Democratic Party organizations.

Sunland resident Monica Ratliff, a Los Angeles Unified School District board member and school teacher, is the third best-funded in the 7th District race, having raised more than \$56,000. Ratliff has overcome better-funded candidates in the past, having beaten out an opponent in the school board race who was endorsed by then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and benefited from an additional \$2 million in independent expenditures.

While some candidates' connections to the political world are seen as strengths, these qualities have nevertheless been painted throughout the race as liabilities. Some of the candidates have railed, in particular, against Rodriguez — despite the fact that she grew up in the northeast Valley — due to her ties with City Hall leadership, often referring to the perception that past council members with such connections frequently left the district to seek higher office.

Stuntman Dale Gibson, who has reported raising more than \$15,000, decried the mayor's endorsement of Rodriguez earlier this year as an "insider" move.

"Political insiders will always take care of other political insiders," Gibson said, adding that by contrast, he is a "local cowboy trying to help here in my area."

Other candidates who lack traditional political advantages say they are tapping into their roots within the district, particularly around the hot-button issue of high-speed rail.

Nicole Chase, a ranch owner and Boys & Girls Club development director who reported raising more than \$13,000, said there was good turnout for her recent "Cabalgata," or cavalcade, campaign event, in which she rallied together disparate equestrian groups, including a Latino "charros" organization. She said she wanted to send the equestrians, who oppose the high-speed rail project and want better maintenance of horse-riding trails, the message: "Imagine how much more powerful we will be united!"

Attendance by candidates at forums has also been healthy, with most of those running turning out for one held in Sunland-Tujunga and another in Lake View Terrace in February.

For a forum at Mission College scheduled on Friday, all but one of the candidates are confirmed, according to Ann Job, a member of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, which organized the event.

"They're on the ground, these 20," said Job, who views the large field of candidates as an opportunity to increase voter engagement.

"If all 20 of them could really get people to come out and support them, then we would have a lot of people voting," Job said. "Wouldn't that make sense?"

Some of the other lesser-known candidates, who have raised funds in the thousands to tens of thousands of dollars, include pub owner and engineer Arthur Miner; state Deputy Attorney General Venessa Martinez; community organizer and former council field deputy Olga Ayala; financial adviser and neighborhood council member Terrence Gomes; veterans advocate Fred Flores; equestrian center owner John T. Higginson; lender mortgage subservicer Constance Saunders; and public interest advocate Mike Schaefer.

Candidates who have not reported fundraising amounts include actress and Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council President Krystee Clark; Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council member David Barron; state government employee Franki Becerra; real estate broker Jose Castillo; bookkeeper Bonnie Conwin; former Sylmar Neighborhood Council

member Carlos Lara, and Councilman and Realtor Mark Reed.

Some speculate that even if Rodriguez meets expectations based on the heft of her campaign finances and endorsements, the No. 2 spot in the runoff might still be up for grabs.

Juan Salas, a member of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council, was among the 30 people who initially lined up to run for the 7th District seat, but he later dropped his bid.

Salas said the vast number of candidates could dilute efforts to take on the better-connected and well-funded candidates. He said he feels "there isn't someone like Bernie (Sanders), who went from an unknown to almost beating Hillary (Clinton)" in the race and who "has really stood out with any momentum."

Much has been made about the unusually large number of candidates, but "there really isn't much excitement" in his own community in Pacoima about going to the polls to choose their next council person, Salas said.

"It's like getting a haircut," he said. "You just do it."

Los Feliz Ledger

LA's Powerful Planning President

By Sheila Lane

At a time when Angelenos are debating the merits of Measure S, weighing the pros and cons of historic preservation and reeling over reports that suggest corruption in the city approvals of some developments, the role of the Los Angeles Planning Commission has come under the microscope.

The nine-member board, which is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council, is a powerful stop along the way to a developer getting a project approved or denied. So too, does the commission's president, currently David Ambroz, wield a lot of influence, not immune to controversy.

Recently, when historic status was up for a vote for the Miracle Mile area, one commissioner was absent. An initial 4-4 vote on the controversial proposal automatically meant it was dead.

Ambroz, who was in favor of the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) proposal with boundary changes, however, asked for a second vote in the hope of breaking the tie.

According to Ambroz, he felt the issue was deeply important to those on both sides and deserved a second vetting.

Postponing the vote, he also said, until all commissioners were present could have been too late, he said.

"If I continued [the vote] for another month," said Ambroz "there might have been bulldozers there in March."

On the second go-around, one commissioner changed her mind and the proposal was approved. The resulting change of fortune for the HPOZ confounded those against it. They lodged a complaint against Ambroz's action soon thereafter.

But according to a spokesperson with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, the commission's actions were "legitimate." Samantha Millman, a commissioner on the board who said Ambroz is "incredibly diplomatic," said she believes his decision reflected what he thought was the right thing to do.

"When a motion fails, you always want to reintroduce the motion so that we take some sort of action," she said. "So I think that was him trying to make sure that one way or another we moved forward with an action rather than a failure to act on the matter."

Ambroz, who is in his late 30s, was appointed to the commission in 2013 by Mayor Eric Garcetti. His term ends in 2021. He currently lives with his husband in Hollywood and has a foster son attending college.

When not volunteering 10 to 20 hours a week on Planning Commission business, Ambroz works full-time as Executive Director of Corporate Citizenship & Social Responsibility for the Disney/ABC Television Group.

He previously spent a decade on neighborhood councils and has consistently worked over the years with non-profits that have a focus on helping foster children. It's an issue with which Ambroz is intimately familiar.

As a child, Ambroz grew up homeless in New York City with his two siblings and a mentally ill mother.

"I lived in Grand Central Station," said Ambroz. "I had people step over me."

At age 11, he began an odyssey through various foster homes before winning a scholarship to Vassar. He went on to the UCLA School of Law where he received a juris doctorate.

Though he has no formal education in urban planning, according to Ambroz, his background informs his perspective on planning commission matters.

Along with issues such as upward mobility and equity, Ambroz said he is "constantly thinking of the homeless."

Ambroz said he believes he and his colleagues—who come from a range of backgrounds including architecture, finance, law, community activism, politics and real estate—share a common factor.

"What the [mayor and the city council] are looking for are broad-minded intelligent people with connections to the community and an understanding of how this all fits together and works," said Ambroz. "I think it's a diverse group, not just ethnically and by gender, but by experience."

Ambroz said the net effect is similar to having a jury of your peers in a court case.

"We are an independent group of nine people paid zero dollars to act in the best interest of Los Angeles," he said.

By the time proposals come before the commission, the Planning Dept. has already vetted them—a process that sometimes takes years. Ambroz, who said he has a "great respect" for department staff, said that the commission tries to examine the proposal from different angles.

"We go above and beyond the code," said Ambroz. "[We ask] [w]here's the council office on this? What's been the outreach?"

Ambroz said that input from the public is also critical.

"Every time a person carves time out of their day to come down or submit a letter, it impacts the way I think about a project," he said. "They usually provide neighborhood context or information that they live [because] they're adjacent to a

project.

Ambroz's experience with planning issues has led him to be "profoundly" against Measure S.

"It's chopping off your arm because you have a hangnail," said Ambroz.

Ambroz said fixes to the city's planning and approval process can happen without "stopping L.A.'s economy, making people homeless and throwing people out of their jobs," issues those opposed to the measure have cited.

Over his tenure, Ambroz said he has observed the anger that can erupt between neighbors fighting over land use issues.

"I wish neighbors were kinder to each other," said Ambroz, "and assume that each of them have the best intentions."

LA Times

LA keeps building near freeways, even though living there makes people sick

By Tony Barbosa

For more than a decade, California air quality officials have warned against building homes within 500 feet of freeways.

And with good reason: People there suffer higher rates of asthma, heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer and pre-term births.

Recent research has added more health risks to the list, including childhood obesity, autism and dementia.

Yet Southern California civic officials have flouted those warnings, allowing a surge in home building near traffic pollution, according to a Los Angeles Times analysis of U.S. Census data, building permits and other government records.

In Los Angeles alone officials have approved thousands of new homes within 1,000 feet of a freeway — even as it advised developers that this distance poses health concerns.

The city issued building permits for 4,300 homes near freeways in 2015 — more than in any year over the last decade — and signed off on an additional 3,000 units last year.

Public funds, including millions of dollars from California's cap-and-trade program to cut greenhouse gas emissions, are going to developers to build new homes in freeway pollution hot spots.

The population near Los Angeles freeways is growing faster than elsewhere in the city as planners push developers to concentrate new housing near transportation hubs, convinced that increasing urban density will help meet state targets for greenhouse gas reductions.

More than 1.2 million people already live in high-pollution zones within 500 feet of a Southern California freeway, with more moving in every day. Between 2000 and 2010 — the most recent period available — the population within 500 feet of a Los Angeles freeway grew 3.9%, compared with a rate of 2.6% citywide.

Los Angeles City Councilman José Huizar, who lives several hundred feet from Interstate 5, said freeway pollution is such an urgent and complex problem that he wants the city to establish buffer zones. He called for a "comprehensive, citywide study of development near freeways that would analyze all impacts of limiting development around freeways."

Other elected officials and business groups argue that Los Angeles is so thoroughly crisscrossed by freeways that restricting growth near them is impractical and would hamper efforts to ease a severe housing shortage. In some cases, city officials are paving the way by re-zoning industrial land along freeways and other transportation corridors.

In an interview at a recent groundbreaking for a freeway-adjacent apartment project, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said that he grew up near the 101 and 405 freeways and that many in his family had cancer.

Mayor Eric Garcetti attends a groundbreaking ceremony for a 160-unit affordable apartment project next to the 110 Freeway in South Los Angeles. View more photos

But he said he opposes any restrictions on how many homes can be built near freeways and thinks that improving air-filtration, building design and tailpipe emissions are a better way to reduce risks to residents.

"I take this stuff very seriously, but I also know that in looking for housing we have a very constricted city," he said.

Garcetti spokesman Carl Marziani noted that a prohibition on building within 1,000 feet of freeways, for example, would cover more than 10% of land currently zoned for residential construction in the city, from Westwood to Boyle Heights and San Pedro to Sherman Oaks. But proponents of stricter planning, including supporters of Measure S, a proposal on the March 7 ballot that would place new restrictions on development, have criticized city officials for approving what they term "black lung lofts."

How close to the freeway are you?

Low rent and a location near shops and restaurants are what brought Jeremiah Caleb to an apartment on Beloit Avenue, where a sound wall is all that separates the 405 freeway from sleek new apartments and lofts advertising "good living."

But life got worse for Jeremiah and his wife Angel soon after moving into that one-bedroom on the Westside of Los Angeles.

The couple began to struggle with bouts of coughing, sneezing and headaches. They kept the windows shut, yet a grimy, black film settled regularly over the furniture, counters and even their skin — a never-ending reminder of the vehicle exhaust and soot they were breathing just 100 feet from 14 lanes of traffic.

"We were constantly sick," said Caleb, an actor in his 30s. The couple worried enough about dirty air that they put off having children. "We were desperate to leave, but we felt stuck. We just couldn't afford it."

Business groups have consistently opposed any suggestion of restricting development near heavy traffic.

"Freeways are part of Los Angeles' fabric and prohibiting housing by them is unrealistic," said Carol Schatz, president of the Downtown Center Business Improvement District. She argues that such restrictions would worsen the housing crisis and severely limit the ability to build housing near mass transit.

The Southern California Assn. of Governments, the regional planning agency for Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial counties, has projected that the population within 500 feet of a freeway will increase by a quarter million people by 2035.

Rob McConnell, a professor of preventive medicine at USC who studies roadway pollution, is one of a number of health

researchers who has advised city officials not to allow new housing that close to freeways.

"I tell them you're going to make a lot of people sick," McConnell said.

But pinpointing the harmful agents in traffic pollution is difficult because it's a stew of ingredients including toxic combustion gases, microscopic soot particles, compounds from worn tires and dust from vehicle brake pads. Recent research has narrowed in on one component of special concern: ultra-fine particles, pollutants in freshly emitted vehicle exhaust that can be five to 10 times higher near traffic.

The invisible, chemical-laden specks are less than one-thousandth the width of a human hair — so tiny they are hard to capture with pollution controls or filters. Scientists suspect ultra-fine particles are able to pass through the lungs and into the bloodstream, where they may harm the heart, brain and other organs. Yet they remain unregulated by state and federal authorities.

That emerging science has raised concerns that decades of government regulations, aimed at curbing smog that builds up across vast urban areas, are not sufficiently tailored to the more localized problem of roadway pollution.

Two years ago, state environmental officials concluded that diesel soot and other carcinogens in vehicle exhaust pose nearly three times the cancer risk previously thought.

In a long-term study, USC researchers have for more than two decades measured the lung capacity of thousands of school children across Southern California. They found that children growing up near major roadways have higher rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, including deficits in lung function that can be permanent and lead to a lifetime of health problems.

Even in communities with cleaner air, such as Santa Maria near the Santa Barbara County coast, children living near traffic had the same lung function loss as those in Riverside and other smoggy inland areas, the scientists found.

Anthony Moretti, chairman of pediatrics at White Memorial Medical Center in Boyle Heights, said children who live close to freeways are among those who most frequently land in the emergency room struggling to breathe and in need of treatment for asthma and other respiratory diseases.

"These kids will come in four, five, six times over a six-month period, and clearly their environment is a factor," he said. "I feel for these families because they suffer an undue burden of illness simply because of where they live."

Dr. Anthony Moretti says children who live close to freeways are among those who most frequently arrive in the emergency room struggling to breathe and in need of inhalers and treatment for asthma and other respiratory diseases.

(Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times) View more photos

Public health officials have long warned that traffic pollution can drift well over 1,000 feet from traffic — and more recent research suggests that it may waft more than a mile.

Yet it took lawsuits and a nationwide mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to force Southern California air quality officials to begin regularly measuring pollution near Southern California freeways in 2014.

The first readings confirmed that people near freeways breathe higher levels of the exhaust gases nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. Then, in 2015, the South Coast Air Quality Management District detected the region's highest concentrations of fine particulate matter at a new monitoring station 30 feet from the 60 Freeway in Ontario. The findings added compelling evidence that traffic emissions are piling on top of regional smog, hitting people near freeways with a double dose of pollution.

To learn more about the problem, The Times conducted air quality testing at sites where new housing is planned near Los Angeles freeways.

In August and September of 2015, reporters collected air samples at several locations using portable pollution sensors that detect ultra-fine particles, the microscopic pollutants in vehicle exhaust. One set of air samples was taken next to stretches of the 110 and 5 freeways and another set was taken 1,500 to 1,800 feet from the freeways.

Source: TSI P-Trak Ultrafine Particle Counter 8525 recordings on Aug. 20, 2015 and Sept. 24, 2015. See the data

Pollution readings near the freeways were three to four times higher than in neighborhoods at a distance from traffic.

Diesel trucks produced the most noticeable pollution, coughing out foul plumes of exhaust and soot that could be seen and smelled as pollution readings jumped.

Scientists at USC and the South Coast air district said the readings were consistent with their measurements near freeways.

One of the locations where reporters detected high pollution levels was next to a vacant lot along the 110 Freeway in South Los Angeles where two apartment buildings for low-income residents are being built.

The \$55-million Meta Housing Corp. project, which will bring 160 new housing units to the busy traffic corridor, is partly funded with money from pollution permits sold under the state's cap-and-trade program, among other state and local government subsidies.

Among the most visible and controversial projects that have raised traffic pollution concerns in Los Angeles are developer Geoffrey H. Palmer's massive Italianate apartment complexes overlooking downtown freeways. He has built thousands of units and is planning more.

In interviews, current and past residents of Palmer's Orsini development, which hulks over the interchange of the 101 and 110 freeways, said they moved to the complex for its convenient downtown location. But many spoke of keeping windows closed to block noise and pollution, deploying house plants to soak up the bad air and constantly sweeping and dusting the fine black soot that seems to find its way onto every surface.

Felicia Gargani said her pet peeve was the grime that collected on her fourth-floor balcony that looked out over the freeway. "If you walk out there barefoot," she said, "your feet turn black."

Construction on the Orsini began more than a decade ago, before scientists grasped the extent of the health hazards of building so close to traffic.

In the years since, the South Coast air district has sent dozens of letters to cities sounding alarms about similarly risky

home building proposals near freeways in Los Angeles and other communities across its four-county jurisdiction. The air-quality agency reserved some of its strongest criticisms for developer M. David Paul's 325-unit Il Villaggio Toscano project proposed near the 405-101 interchange in Sherman Oaks, urging Los Angeles city planners in 2011 to "reconsider placing new housing immediately adjacent to one of the busiest freeway intersections in Southern California." The city "is ignoring the abundant health science data that has come out over the past decade that demonstrates serious health consequences for those living near a freeway," the air district's Ian MacMillan wrote.

Motorists travel along the 101 Freeway in Hollywood. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times) View more photos Everett Smith, a renter at the Orsini apartments, looks out from his balcony at rush hour traffic on the 101 and 110 freeway interchange in downtown Los Angeles. (Don Bartletti / Los Angeles Times)

The City Council approved the project unanimously in August 2013, with its backers pledging to use the highest-rated air filters.

Los Angeles officials now require all homes built near freeways to have air filtration systems that rate at least 13 on the industry's 16-point effectiveness scale.

California air regulators acknowledge that decades of strict vehicle emissions standards have slashed tailpipe emissions, and they say air quality along freeways will continue to improve as the state transitions to cleaner vehicles and fuels.

Health officials say that those mitigating steps are good, but that the only way to solve the problem is for city and county officials to stop residential building near freeways.

And that, say legal experts, is well within their authority.

Planning experts cite a number of possible approaches to the public health problem.

Cities could re-zone areas near heavy traffic to exclude new residential development or change their general plans to prohibit such uses, planning experts say. Officials could adopt ordinances or moratoriums on new residential development. Or they could strengthen building standards — as they have for seismic reasons — forcing developers to design buildings in a way that reduces residents' exposure to polluted air.

"If there's a political will to protect people from this type of development then cities certainly know how to use zoning to accomplish that," said James Kushner, an expert in land-use, development and urban planning at Southwestern Law School.

Thousands of homes approved near L.A. freeways

One of the only attempts at a ban on development occurred several years ago when the L.A. County Department of Public Health proposed language in the county's general plan to prohibit new housing within 500 feet of freeways, citing the adverse health effects. County planners ultimately rejected the idea.

The failure of such restrictions to gain traction has left some local officials wondering if the only way to keep cities from building more homes near freeways is through a state law.

One precedent is a 2003 law California passed prohibiting the construction of new public schools within 500 feet of freeways out of concern for children's health. But school districts have used exceptions in the law to keep building.

Meanwhile, the residential developments that are rising next to freeways continue to spread not just through the urban core, but across the region.

One of those new neighborhoods is Cedar Point, a subdivision of one and two-story houses in the San Bernardino County suburb of Chino. The development was built on land that had been re-zoned for housing in a special election paid for by a real estate company. It sits about 100 feet from the 60 Freeway.

More than 220,000 vehicles motor by each day on this major freight corridor, including some 27,000 big-rig trucks whose diesel engines cough out many times more harmful pollutants than cars.

In January 2015, the South Coast air district sent a letter to Chino officials warning that freeway pollutants would threaten the health of residents in the new homes.

A few months later, the building site swarmed with construction workers and heavy equipment.

Dennis Yates, former mayor of Chino who served more than 12 years on the region's air quality board, said that as mayor he encouraged the developer to put in higher-rated air filters, but acknowledged he "personally wouldn't live there."

Among those who did move into one of Cedar Point's four-bedroom houses was Mike Sanchez, his wife and two young daughters.

Buying so close to traffic was a difficult decision, he said, but "one of the sacrifices we made to get into a new home."

Back on the Westside of Los Angeles, Jeremiah Caleb, who spent years battling black road dust and illness while living in an apartment next to the 405, said he and his wife were relieved when she landed a nursing job — a second income that allowed them to move to a less-polluted neighborhood about a mile from any freeway.

Their health has improved, with their once-constant headaches and respiratory problems now a rarity.

"I can leave my doors open and I'm breathing fresh air all the time," he said. "We got lucky. But for most people . . . They're stuck because that's what they can afford."

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Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED] Thu, Mar 9, 2017 at 5:22 AM
To: Carolyn comcast [REDACTED], Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED], Cecilia Cabello home [REDACTED], Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Lynette Amerian <[REDACTED]> MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Vance <[REDACTED]>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

The Garcetti Decade

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Mayor Garcetti's landslide victory could give him much more political clout

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LA Times

The Garcetti Decade

By Christopher Dolan

In 2009, Los Angeles magazine put a picture of Antonio Villaraigosa, newly elected to a second term as mayor, on its cover beneath a blaring single-word headline: "Failure."

His successor, Eric Garcetti, who is on the verge of his own second term, has never faced that kind of hostility from the media. Yet neither has he whipped up a great deal of excitement. Widely but not wildly popular, Garcetti, 46, has largely packaged himself as a back-to-basics mayor, a persona that tends (by design, presumably) to keep his political instincts and sizable ambition tucked away from public view.

That's not to say that Garcetti doesn't have an opportunity to put a major imprint on the city. This is especially true when it comes to the subjects central to this column, including civic architecture, urban planning and the design of public and green space across Los Angeles.

In fact, the confluence of two factors means that Garcetti has a chance to shape the public character of Los Angeles more profoundly than any mayor since Tom Bradley, who served five terms between 1973 and 1993.

The first is that because of L.A.'s decision to shift its elections from March of odd years to November of even ones, to sync with state and federal voting, Garcetti's second term will stretch for five and a half years. If he serves the term in full — a fairly big if, and one we'll come back to — he'll occupy the mayor's chair for essentially a full decade, nearly two years longer than anyone else in the term-limits era, which began after Bradley left office.

The second factor is that Garcetti is presiding over an L.A. that is reinventing itself in some fundamental and controversial ways. My term for this emerging city is the Third Los Angeles, following the streetcar-filled and civic-minded First L.A. of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the car-dominated, innovative and deeply privatized Second L.A. of the postwar decades.

This nascent Third Los Angeles is a post-suburban city. It has given up on the infinite expansion that Los Angeles once took for granted — the notion that growth itself is among our chief industries — and is turning inward, adding denser development to its central core. It is investing heavily in mass transit and trying to repair its public spaces while facing the specter of climate change.

It is his capacity to shape that rising city, to give it a stronger sense of coherence and equity than it's had so far, that gives Garcetti a chance to be one of the most consequential mayors in modern L.A. history. (It helps that he is genuinely engaged by and knowledgeable about subjects like architecture and planning.) He'll attempt to do so while beating back

opposition from homeowners groups and others who are keen to defend what we might think of as their Second L.A. privileges: high housing prices, which protect their equity; low property taxes under California's Proposition 13; and an approach to urban design that sees taming congestion as L.A.'s most important civic responsibility.

For all the talk of Garcetti's preternatural caution, he has already not only identified but grabbed hold of some powerful levers for transforming Los Angeles and the wider region. Among the most notable are the expansion of mass transit, the remaking of the Los Angeles River and the city's bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Each of those efforts is a potential legacy project for Garcetti; taken together, they could make up an achievement on which to hang a national reputation. But in the first two cases — tellingly, in terms of his style — he has stayed to one degree or another in the background.

As mayor, Garcetti has his own seat and appoints three others on the board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which is now the owner of a huge war chest of funding — more than \$100 billion — after the approval of Measure M last fall. That still leaves him well shy of direct control of Metro, a county agency that will be arguably the most important patron of civic architecture and public-space design in Los Angeles over the next two decades.

At least in public-relations terms, a good deal of river policy — including the controversial decision to ask Frank Gehry to oversee a new master plan for its 51-mile length — flows through River L.A., a nonprofit that was founded by the city but has its own leadership and board. The future of the river also depends heavily on decisions made in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

A milestone in the revitalization effort came earlier this month with the news that the city had completed the \$59.3-million purchase of the 41-acre "G2" parcel along its banks in Cypress Park. It is a piece of land that suggests both the potential and the complexity — since it requires major environmental remediation — of turning land along the river from eyesore to public amenity.

Then there's the Olympics bid. That also began as an independent effort, though Garcetti later moved it in-house at City Hall.

The wild cards, as so often is the case in Los Angeles, are jobs, housing and public education, along with a crime rate that has begun to rise after years of decline, and the uncertainty of California's relationship with the Trump White House. The growth of the tech industry in L.A. hasn't been enough to offset the continuing hollowing out of the region's industrial base. Opposition to development from slow-growth groups has kept the supply of residential units artificially low, exacerbating the housing crisis.

Garcetti could be much more forceful in confronting the more strident forms of that opposition. It would also be helpful to hear him articulate what developers owe the city in terms of making their projects as public-minded as possible. Forget giant, attention-getting new buildings for a moment: How can we make the typical new mid-rise apartment block a better piece of architecture?

Finally there's the "if" I mentioned earlier — the reason the headline on this column includes an asterisk. Garcetti will come close to reaching the decade mark as mayor only if he serves a full second term. He's rumored to be considering a run for governor or senator next year.

Villaraigosa, for his part, began to rebound after that magazine cover, though not immediately. His final year or so in office was surprisingly effective: He pared down his list of priorities, concentrating in particular on helping guide an earlier phase of the transit expansion.

That's one more reason those extra 18 months could be crucial for Garcetti and his legacy, assuming he sticks around. Los Angeles is a huge, spread-out city that can seem ungovernable. Each City Council office makes up a fiefdom whose power comes at the expense of the mayor's office.

It can take six or seven years to really figure out how to run this place. Even a mayor as diligent as Garcetti — and he continues to remind me of a student who hands in his term papers a couple of days early — can use all the extra time in office he can get.

Daily News

Mayor Garcetti's landslide victory could give him much more political clout

By Elizabeth Chou

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti not only won re-election by a wide margin, he may have set a record by taking nearly 81 percent of the vote.

Garcetti's landslide victory, which some believe may be the biggest in city history for a mayoral election, is thought to not only give the mayor bragging rights, but it may translate into political clout as well.

A day after the election, Garcetti said he was pleasantly surprised by his performance at the ballot box, but he insisted the big victory hasn't distracted him from being the city's mayor in the second term.

"I'm excited to be mayor," he said Wednesday, adding, "I am who I am. I work hard at transportation, minimum wage, seismic retrofits, big things in my first term. And I'm not going to stop doing that."

Some observers speculate that Garcetti's strong performance could improve his career prospects, such as if he decides to run for governor or senator over the next few years.

Garry South, a political strategist who ran Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom's short-lived gubernatorial bid in the 2010 election, said it's understandable that Garcetti might be interested in higher office.

"He's young, he's very smart, he's mayor of the biggest city in California and the second biggest city in the United States of America," South noted. "I doubt that Eric Garcetti believes that his final elected position in political life is going to be mayor of L.A."

unseemly for a mayor to be re-elected, to be sworn in July 1st, then two weeks later announce he is running for another office," he said.

During the election cycle, that possibility became a source of criticism against Garcetti. His opponents, in particular political strategist Mitchell Schwartz, took aim at Garcetti's possible political ambitions, calling on the mayor to complete his full second term if re-elected.

While Garcetti dismissed Schwartz's attack as a "gimmick," he has never ruled out the possibility of pursuing higher office while still in his second term.

But he also maintained that he takes his current job seriously and understands that he needs to focus on tackling the city's many challenges.

"It was a historic election but also one in which the city faces the same challenge as the next day," he said Wednesday, following a post-election visit to City Council chambers. "So a wide margin is nice, but I'm still as passionate about solving the problems that we face."

Aside from being used for running for another job, the clout that Garcetti may have received from his strong finish could come in handy for his current job, according to County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, a former mayor of West Hollywood who endorsed Garcetti for re-election.

Due to the lengthier, 5 1/2 years of Garcetti's second term and the "overwhelmingly convincing amount" of votes he received, the mayor can "really dig deep into those big issues that he had begun to address in his first term," Prang said. "Now he has the freedom, the liberty and the mandate to really drill down deep on a lot of those issues."

Those issues might include "finally providing meaningful support for the homeless," and tending to some traditional challenges, such as getting funding for fixing roads, bridges and other infrastructure, he said.

It might also include the added challenge of running a California city under President Donald Trump's administration, Prang noted.

The current president "has expressed outward hostility toward the state of California" and many of the people who live there, Prang said.

"I think it will require the mayor to be much more agile, he may have to work a lot harder to get a lot less from the federal government," he said.

As for the talk of Garcetti being preoccupied with pursuing higher office, Prang explained that at least for him, there is more appeal than one might think in staying engaged in a local government job.

"To be the mayor of the nation's second largest city gives you an incredible platform to really contribute significantly to the community, to the civic agenda," he said.

Sacramento Bee

Mayor Eric Garcetti just romped to reelection in Los Angeles. Is a run for governor next?

By Christopher Cadelago

Even before he trounced a field of 10 little-known challengers Tuesday, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's political future was the subject of speculation.

With the field taking shape for next year's race for California governor and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's re-election bid still unannounced, Garcetti has navigated an understated and scandal-free run at the helm of the nation's second-largest city.

On Tuesday, he led the low-turnout election with more than 80 percent of the vote in a year during which his smiling face was the most-sought-after campaign-mail commodity. His record of consistently landing on the winning side of city ballot measures – and his role in a union-inspired effort to raise the minimum wage – certainly help his appeal.

"One has to believe (the election) positions Garcetti to run for Senate or governor if he so chooses," Eric Bauman, chairman of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, said in an interview Wednesday. He added that a victory of that magnitude has not been seen in Los Angeles in roughly 100 years.

"In the lead-up to election day, the visibility that he had from television, digital media and other campaign activities certainly increased people's awareness of him all across Southern California," Bauman said. "Running on the successes that he has, and receiving that kind of response from voters, validates his mayorship, and certainly provides him with a great story to tell no matter what he runs for."

If the first question is choosing between governor and U.S. Senate, Garcetti, a former City Council president, has said he prefers an executive office.

The 46-year-old, fourth-generation Angelino of Mexican-Italian-Jewish descent had been telling donors to his mayoral campaign to remain neutral in the governor's race – for now. He spent more than \$3 million bolstering his profile in a mayoral campaign during which the only mystery was the size of his margin of victory.

While his team has been mum about his future, Garcetti was asked Wednesday on Los Angeles CBS radio station KNX 1070 if he intends to serve out his full, 5 1/2 -year term as mayor, which is longer than usual because of a change in the election date.

"I don't know where I am going to be, but I know I'll be serving the people of the city of Los Angeles," Garcetti replied. "I don't make pledges about the future. But I am really excited to get back to work as mayor on a second term."

"I want to continue building out the subway system and the light-rail lines and reduce traffic. And I want to continue to get this economy humming. I want us to embody the values of our city and also have the opportunity to show America what a city that's moving forward looks like.

"If I can serve people doing that, I'll be a happy camper."

Speaking on Feb. 1, 2017, 2018 California gubernatorial candidate Antonio Villaraigosa said Tom Steyer would enhance

The city's swearing-in ceremony is July 1, following a May 10 runoff for other positions. Dan Schnur, a campaign veteran and USC professor, said the large margin allows the mayor to move quickly if he chooses.

"If he decided to run, there is going to be some backlash no matter what, but it's a lot more manageable for someone who just got elected with 80 percent of the vote than somebody that just squeaked by," Schnur said.

Another opening for Garcetti could come in September, after the International Olympic Committee announces whether Los Angeles has won its bid to host the 2024 Olympic Games. The longer he waits, the less time he has to raise money. Other Democrats in the governor's race include Treasurer John Chiang, former state schools chief Delaine Eastin, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, though several others including Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, former Controller Steve Westly and environmental activist Tom Steyer may run. Republican businessman John Cox entered the contest Tuesday.

The opportunity for Garcetti is to stake out the Democratic base, Schnur said.

"Garcetti would need to run to the left of the field. He competes with Villaraigosa and Chiang geographically, but his most significant ideological competition is Newsom," he said.

While Garcetti polls strongly in Los Angeles, statewide public surveys show him and the others running well behind Newsom, the former San Francisco mayor whose Bay Area roots, gut appeal with the party faithful over liberal issues and early support from groups like the nurses union position him as the likeliest recipient of Bernie Sanders-wing voters.

In his victory speech Tuesday, interrupted by demonstrators who want him to declare Los Angeles a "sanctuary city," Garcetti talked about slashing the unemployment rate, spending on infrastructure and moving to protect the city's large undocumented population.

He believes his city is already a place of "sanctuary," from churches to schools to public facilities, and insists his Police Department is not focused on enforcing federal immigration law. Still, he's refrained from making the overt declaration.

"It's time to stop thinking about the most powerful man in our country and start thinking about the most vulnerable people in our city," Garcetti said in the address, which included a shout-out to the protesters. "If we are silent," he added, "that is the greatest crime of all."

LA Sentinel

Garcetti Reelected In Landslide

By Jennifer Bihm

Incumbent Mayor Eric Garcetti will avoid a May runoff in his bid for reelection, having garnered more than 80 percent of the vote on March 7. Garcetti eclipsed his ten challengers in fundraising during his campaign with over \$3 million. That, along with support from a large number of Los Angeles voters and a relatively low voter turnout "virtually guaranteed a majority win," according to Brianne Gilbert, associate director at the Dorothy Leavay Center for the Study of Los Angeles, which conducted a poll during the campaign.

During his first term, Garcetti has supported a minimum wage hike, lowered business tax and helped to pass a \$1.2 billion measure to combat homelessness. Garcetti was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 2001 and reelected in 2005 and 2009. He succeeded Alex Padilla as president of the City Council on January 1, 2006 and was re-elected as president at the beginning of the Council's subsequent terms in 2007 and 2009.

"While other people are talking about doing big things, Los Angeles, we are doing big things right now," Garcetti told his constituents on election night.

"My friends, big things don't happen by accident. They require leadership. The job of the mayor is to get things done, and that's what I'm going to keep on doing for each and every one of you here in this city.

"We're breaking records at our port and our airport. We're breaking records for tourism and filming. We've housed more homeless veterans than any city in America. We've paved more roads than ever before. We've confronted climate change head on, by cleaning our air, conserving our water and expanding our green spaces. We enacted the largest tax cut in our city's history and we've seen more small businesses start in the last four years than we've seen in decades..."

Garcetti supported recent expansions of the Los Angeles Police Department and the re-implementation of the Senior Lead Officer Program. Crime has fallen in his district by more than forty percent since 2001, according to reports.

"We know that standing up for equality and for liberty and for justice for each and every one of us are the values that directly lead to our collective success," he said.

"We are all Angelenos. And we are all Americans. And we will rise together. At a moment when politics is being used to divide us, here in L.A., we stand for something bigger. We stand for the ideal that when we come together we propel our city and our nation forward."

Garcetti was raised in the San Fernando Valley and earned his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. He studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and the London School of Economics and taught at Occidental College and USC. A fourth generation Angeleno, he and his wife, Amy Elaine Wakeland, have a young daughter. He is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy reserve and is an avid jazz pianist and photographer.

Harvard Westlake Chronicle

Eric Garcetti '88 wins second term as LA Mayor

By Anthony Weintraub

Incumbent Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '88 won reelection Tuesday in an election marked by low turnout.

Garcetti decisively defeated his 10 challengers, earning approximately 81 percent of the vote.

Garcetti campaigned on his record as mayor, which included raising the minimum wage and lowering business taxes.

Garcetti was endorsed by former President Barack Obama and the Los Angeles Times.

Garcetti said in 2013 that his time at Harvard School taught him the importance of education, which was also a focus of his campaign.

"Without question I would not be mayor today of the largest city in the largest state of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth if it wasn't for what I learned on this campus," Garcetti said at an all-school assembly in March 2015.

Garcetti also said that history teacher Dave Waterhouse's AP United States Government and Politics class was where he became interested in politics. Garcetti was involved in Junior State of America, a national civic engagement organization where members debate current political issues.

Prior to becoming mayor, Garcetti served as a member of the Los Angeles City Council from 2001 to 2013. He was president of the council from 2006 to 2012.

Garcetti graduated from Columbia University in 1992, studied at London School of Economics and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

ABC News

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti wins 2nd term

By Michael Blood

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti claimed a second term Tuesday, trouncing 10 little-known rivals in an election with a tiny turnout but potentially major implications for the nation's second largest city.

The 46-year-old Democrat, whose campaign benefited from an improved economy, had an insurmountable lead by winning 81 percent of the first 90,000 votes counted. Mitchell Jack Schwartz was in second with nearly 8 percent, and eight other candidates had 3 percent or less.

"I want to thank the citizens who voted for me, you made this moment possible," Garcetti told supporters at his victory party, then repeated the line in Spanish.

"Tonight, we celebrate, and tomorrow I'll go back to work doing the job I love," the mayor said.

Garcetti said he plans to focus on the city's weakest even as the national government neglects or targets them, making veiled reference to President Donald Trump.

"It's time to stop thinking about the most powerful man in our country and start thinking about the most vulnerable people in our city," Garcetti said.

In the voting for the city's ballot measures, the fiercely contested proposal known as Measure S, intended to restrict larger real estate projects, was losing 63 percent to 37 percent with about 90,000 votes counted.

The proposal, which Garcetti opposes, was intended to restrict taller, denser development in the city of nearly 4 million.

A Los Angeles County measure that asks for a quarter-cent sales tax increase to pay for homeless services was getting nearly 63 percent of the early vote, but was short of the two-thirds it needs to pass.

Mayoral challengers had hoped to hold Garcetti below 50 percent and force a May runoff.

Garcetti is often mentioned as a likely candidate for higher office, and the victory could provide a springboard for future campaigns.

Garcetti, who was elected four years ago on a back-to-basics slogan, has touted job growth, helped secure funds for rail lines intended to help unclog freeways and championed a \$1 billion program to get control of a homeless crisis.

The sparse turnout was typical of municipal elections in LA.

Measure S has shadowed municipal contests this year, and it challenged Garcetti's vision for building thousands of new apartments clustered around train stations.

Its supporters fear that LA is being gradually transformed into a sunnier, West Coast version of Manhattan. They argue that City Hall too often bends to politically connected developers whose large projects with high rents drive out lower-income residents, contributing to homelessness and increasing congestion.

But Garcetti warned it could drive the city into recession. Rusty Hicks, who heads the powerful Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, calls the proposal "an anti-worker housing ban" that would hobble the construction industry.

Another city ballot measure, which would give the mayor and city council new powers to regulate marijuana as its recreational form becomes legal next year, had the support of 77 percent of voters after early ballots were counted. The measure would also set different tax rates for different forms of pot.

The election comes at a time of renewal and struggles for the city.

Once-dreary downtown has seen a rebirth, and new residents and trendy restaurants have been moving in. A stronger economy has helped bring jobs, including to the tech industry hub known as Silicon Beach. And a region without an NFL team for two decades now has two, the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers.

But poverty rates remain alarming, and tents used by the homeless run for blocks along some downtown streets. Violent crime has climbed for the third consecutive year, jumping by 37 percent from 2014 to 2016. And drivers continue to face some of the nation's worst gridlock, while potholes and cracked sidewalks bring gripes across the city.

La Opinion

Garcetti stays as mayor of Los Angeles for another 5 years

By Araceli Ortega

With an overwhelming advantage, Mayor Eric Garcetti was re-elected in office for five and a half more years, leaving ten candidates on the road who sought to unseat him.

With 80.7% of the votes, Garcetti who came to the mayoralty in July 2013, made a side without problems to his opponents. Mitchell Jack Schwartz his closest opponent got just 8.22% of the vote. Although not likely to miss re-election, Garcetti spent \$ 3 million on his campaign against \$ 700,000 from Schwartz.

Thank you for giving me the honor of being your mayor for another period," Garcetti told hundreds of his supporters who gathered waiting for the results Tuesday night at the premises of the 300th North American International Workers' Union in Pico Union.

At 46, Garcetti is the first Jewish mayor to have the city of 4 million inhabitants. It rises with the triumph in an election day that was characterized by the little assists to the polls.

Also of Mexican roots, the reelected mayor has maintained a position of defense and protection of the immigrants before any policy against which the government of Donald Trump can undertake.

Councilman Gil Cedillo won with 50.98% of the votes, the seat by the district 1 that covers the northeast of the city. He left behind Joe Bray Ali, the pro bicyclist who gave him a strong fight but got 36.13% of the vote.

Cedillo was the tightest race in the eight seats at the Los Angeles Council but after a few minutes of nerves during the initial counting of votes, Cedillo managed to tie more than 50% of the vote that allows him not to go to a second choice. "He is a fighter and people recognize him," said candidate for governor and former mayor Antonio Villaraigosa when joining Cedillo's celebration party.

Those who will have to go to a second election for the position of councilman for the 7th district of the northeast of the Valley of San Fernando, are the Hispanic Mónica Rodríguez and Karo Torossian.

Neither of them got more than 50% of the votes which would have guaranteed them not to go to the second round in the May 16 election.

Rodríguez, the daughter of Mexican immigrants, won 27.70% of the vote against 16.35% of Torossian. A total of 20 candidates disputed the seat in the council that vacated Felipe Fuentes, when it resigned to leave like Cabildero.

Rodríguez, a former Public Works Commissioner in Los Angeles, has the support of re-elected mayor Eric Garcetti, and if he wins in May, he would become the second woman on the Los Angeles Council, made up of 15 members with only one woman, Nury Martínez.

Torossian, a former community organizer, works as Planning and Environment Director for Council Member Paul Krekorian.

Although the 9th arrondissement of southern downtown Los Angeles is becoming more Latino, African American councilman Curren Price was re-elected to the post by the 9th arrondissement of southern downtown Los Angeles and defeated the Hispanic Jorge Nuño. Price got 62.71% of the votes against 22.93 of Nuño.

The rest of the councilors obtained re-election for five and a half years more in the position with more than 60 and 70% of the votes. Joe Buscaino, Mitch O'Farrell, Mike Bonin, Paul Koretz and Bob Blumenfeld were re-elected.

And without any opposition were reelected, City Attorney Mike Feuer and Ron S. Galperin as comptroller.

Councilors normally serve a four-year term, but because a change in the electoral calendar to consolidate municipal elections with state and federal elections beginning in 2020, all Tuesday's winners will be in office for five years and a half.

LA Times

LA voter turnout likely to be lowest ever, muddying Garcetti's historic reelection win

By Michael Finnegan

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti made history in his romp to reelection on Tuesday: His 81% share of the vote was higher than any of his predecessors had won in more than a century.

But Tuesday's election — once the ballot count is complete — is likely to break another record for low voter turnout in an L.A. mayor's race, according to Dean Logan, the Los Angeles County registrar of voters.

So despite his impressive vote share, it appears that Garcetti won with fewer votes — just over 202,000 in the initial tally — than at least a half dozen L.A. mayors: James K. Hahn, Richard Riordan, Tom Bradley, Sam Yorty, Norris Poulson and Fletcher Bowron.

Logan expects the final turnout will fall 1 or 2 percentage points below the record low of 17.9% of registered voters in 2009, when Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa won reelection.

"That would be my best back-of-the-napkin estimate," Logan said.

Tens of thousands of ballots have not yet been tallied, so Garcetti's vote will inevitably climb by the time the results are certified at the end of the month.

Still uncounted are provisional ballots cast by voters whose eligibility needs to be verified; mail ballots that were turned into polling places on election day; and mail ballots postmarked by the Tuesday deadline but received later.

It's already clear, however, that turnout was dismal, a reflection of the city's sometimes apolitical nature, a lackluster campaign, and perhaps some voter exhaustion from last year's circus of a presidential election.

Starting in 2020, Los Angeles elections will be consolidated with state and federal elections, a shift aimed at boosting turnout.

For now, Garcetti has won less than half the nearly 432,000 votes that Bowron won in 1950. The city's current population of nearly 4 million is double what it was in the Bowron era.

Garcetti's 81% share of the vote, in a race against 10 largely unknown rivals, easily broke the record of 68% set by Bradley in his 1985 run for reelection.

"It was certainly higher than I expected," Garcetti told reporters Wednesday morning outside a bagel shop in Larchmont. It also gave Garcetti a new edge in his budding rivalry with Villaraigosa, who won just 56% of the vote in his 2009 race against a similarly weak field of challengers.

Villaraigosa is now running for governor, and Garcetti's refusal to rule out joining the race poses a threat to his candidacy since both would compete for the same base of Southern California voters.

Garcetti far surpassed the 132,013 votes that Villaraigosa won in 2005. But Garcetti will be hard pressed to reach the 289,116 votes that Villaraigosa drew in 2005, when he ousted Hahn.

LA Times

Faced with chance for radical change, LA voter chose to stay the course

By Dakota Smith et al

Los Angeles voters offered a strong endorsement Tuesday to policies that have brought denser development and a more urbanized lifestyle to a city once famous for its tracts of tidy single-family homes.

Mayor Eric Garcetti, who has championed greater development in Hollywood, downtown and other parts of the city as well as expanded mass transit service, was easily reelected, while Measure S, a slow-growth measure pushed by people opposed to some of Garcetti's development policies, was voted down.

The election was billed as a referendum on decades of planning policies aimed at adding mid-rise and high-rise development along major boulevards and transit lines as part of a larger effort to get Angelenos to drive less and provide more housing in a time of rising rents and a shortage of dwelling spaces.

Much of L.A.'s establishment — politicians, labor unions, business groups — opposed Measure S and cheered its defeat. "Defeating Measure S has spared our city from a future that would've meant fewer jobs, fewer funds for critical public services, fewer new homes for those who desperately need them and even less affordable rents," said Rusty Hicks, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor.

Measure S targeted the long-standing practice of changing city rules to permit buildings that are taller or denser than the established restrictions would ordinarily allow.

It would have imposed a moratorium lasting up to two years on building projects that require zone changes and other alterations in city rules. It also targeted the controversial practice of "spot zoning" by barring Los Angeles officials from amending the General Plan — a document that governs development across the city — to make way for individual projects in areas where they otherwise would be banned.

Much of the debate revolved around whether Measure S would help or hurt tenants as rents continue to soar. Backers of the ballot measure argued it would combat luxury towers that were displacing longtime renters.

Opponents countered it would squelch housing production and accelerate evictions by blocking development on land that isn't zoned for housing.

The election results "seem to indicate that people understood the devastating impact that Measure S would have on our community if it passed," said Gary Toebben, president of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

There's at least some political will to help ease homelessness

Along with development and crime, homelessness is one of L.A.'s most pressing issues.

And Tuesday's Measure H vote seemed to indicate voters are willing to put money behind solutions.

The quarter-cent sales tax increase in Los Angeles County to fund anti-homelessness measures appeared to earn the two-thirds majority needed for passage early Wednesday.

Measure H would generate about \$355 million annually for homeless programs over 10 years, backers say. The tax increase would raise the sales tax rate to 9% across most of Los Angeles County and up to 10% in a few communities. "Measure H revenue will enable the most comprehensive plan to combat homelessness in the history of Los Angeles County," said Phil Ansell, head of the county's Homeless Initiative.

This marks a key second victory for forces trying to make even a small dent in the homelessness problem.

In November, Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved a \$1.2-billion bond measure to build housing for the chronically homeless.

Voters favored the status quo

If Tuesday's election is any indication, L.A. voters liked the status quo.

Garcetti was a leader in opposing Measure S. He won a second term by a landslide, facing token opposition.

Garcetti spent more than \$3 million trying to burnish his image for an election he stood little chance of losing. His goal was to win not just another term, but also a solid affirmation of hometown support for a potential run for higher office. He governs a city of nearly 4 million people but is barely known outside Southern California.

In his campaign, Garcetti stressed his record raising the minimum wage, cutting business taxes and backing ballot measures to expand public transit and house the homeless.

Only one of Garcetti's challengers, Democratic political operative Mitchell Schwartz, posed a minimal threat. Schwartz spent nearly \$700,000 on the contest, much of it for final-week mailings to voters. It has been many decades since that kind of small-scale campaign has succeeded in an L.A. mayor's race.

Eight City Council seats also were at stake in Tuesday's primary, with incumbents across the city each holding a lopsided lead over their challengers as votes were tallied through the evening.

Not a lot of people voted

Voter turnout was very low. So while Garcetti won by a blowout, the total number of voters was far from a record.

With Tuesday's low voter turnout, however, it's possible that Garcetti will have won fewer votes than other mayors, such as Tom Bradley.

Preliminary voter turnout numbers should be available Wednesday, but final results probably won't be seen for several more days.

The trickle of voters at city polling stations captured the city's prevailing attitude toward the election: indifference.

"Four people in line at my polling place is four more people than I thought would be at my polling place, so that's something," USC graduate student Alex Amadeo wrote on Twitter.

year's elections will serve 5 1/2 years. Starting in 2020, city elections will coincide with state and federal elections. That should increase voter participation.

Daily News

Editorial: Despite it all, LA votes for more of the same

If it wasn't already clear that politics is different in Los Angeles, voters here made it obvious in Tuesday's city and county elections.

In a nation and world supposedly ruled by angry populism, in a metropolitan area with many lingering problems, and amid emotional debate about the effects of development, L.A. residents left their pitchforks at home and gave elected officials a big vote of confidence.

Incomplete returns showed:

- Mayor Eric Garcetti won a second term with more than 80 percent of the vote against 10 opponents, apparently the biggest landslide ever in an L.A. mayoral election.
- All eight City Council incumbents up for re-election were on their way to victory, although District 1 Councilman Gil Cedillo was barely above the outright majority needed to avoid a runoff. Further ballot counting could yet land Cedillo in a May 16 runoff against Joe Bray-Ali.
- All five ballot measures were going the way advocated by city and county officials. Measure H, calling for a quarter-cent county sales tax increase to fund homeless services, was slightly ahead of the two-thirds vote needed for a tax hike to pass. Measure S, whose two-year moratorium on some building aimed to curtail overdevelopment and "pay to play" politics, was soundly defeated. Measure M, allowing regulation of now-legal recreational marijuana, won easily.
- In two important open-seat races, the best-funded candidates appeared headed for runoffs: Monica Rodriguez and Karo Torossian were running first and second for Felipe Fuentes' old City Council District 7 seat in the northeast San Fernando Valley — although Monica Ratliff was close enough behind Torossian that further vote-counting could change that. Kelly Gonez and Imelda Padilla looked certain to make a runoff for Ratliff's L.A. Unified school board District 6 seat.

The only citywide, council or school-board incumbent in trouble was Steve Zimmer in his race for a third term on the school board. Zimmer led Nick Melvoin but was short of a majority and could face a runoff.

Both school-board runoffs would pit charter-school backers against union supporters.

The low voter turnout — sadly, nothing new for local elections — and support for incumbents among those who did vote might be surprising given the city's stubborn problems: homelessness, unaffordable housing, questionable land-use decisions, poorly maintained streets, an uptick in crime, and LAUSD's fiscal and student-achievement struggles.

Maybe Angelenos will engage in local affairs more when city elections are synched up with state elections starting in 2020. That could go either way.

Office-holders re-elected Tuesday — for 5 1/2-year terms this once — should not conclude the public is thrilled with their work, let alone inspired by it.

In many races, including for mayor, the challengers were less than formidable. (In two citywide and one council election, incumbents ran unopposed.) The obstacles to beating city incumbents, and the overwhelming liberal bent of city voters, may discourage credible candidates from running.

What message Garcetti will take from his landslide is less in doubt than where he'll take it. The romp strengthens Garcetti's hand for a potential run for governor or senator in 2018. Until he moves on, he should take voters' approval as encouragement to bolder leadership here in L.A.

My News LA

Same old, same old: Incumbents win in LA City Council races

By City News Service

Six members of the Los Angeles City Council were celebrating re-election victories Wednesday, while Councilman Gil Cedillo appeared to have won as well, but by a tenuous margin over activist/businessman Joe Bray-Ali.

With all precincts reporting from Tuesday's election, Cedillo finished with 50.98 percent of the vote, appearing to win re-election outright. But it was unclear early Wednesday how many provisional or questioned ballots in the district remain to be tallied, and whether the final count might land him under the 50 percent threshold to avoid a May 16 runoff.

Cedillo has a 1,952-vote lead over Bray-Ali, a bike activist and former bike shop owner.

Of the three challengers looking to unseat Cedillo in the 1st Council District, which includes Highland Park and Lincoln Heights, Bray-Ali received a significant bump when the Los Angeles Times endorsed him despite his lack of political experience. Bray-Ali earned The Times' nod over Cedillo, a seasoned political veteran first elected to the seat in 2013 and who also served 14 years in the Assembly and state Senate.

Despite his lack of experience with elected office, The Times board hailed Bray-Ali's "understanding of land-use policy" and his business experience.

Even with the high-profile endorsement, money and history were not on Bray-Ali's side. Cedillo held a significant fundraising advantage, with \$448,129 raised to Bray-Ali's \$106,603 through March 1. There was also the fact that no incumbent has been unseated in a City Council race since 2003, and in that instance Antonio Villaraigosa did so by coming into the race as a high-profile former Assembly speaker.

Cedillo had the backing of the political establishment, with the endorsements of Gov. Jerry Brown, Sen. Kamala Harris, Mayor Eric Garcetti and Council President Herb Wesson.

One race that is heading for a runoff is the battle for the vacant 7th District seat. Former city Board of Public Works member Monica Rodriguez will square off in the runoff with Karo Torossian, a staffer for Councilman Paul Krekorian.

Rodriguez topped the field of 20 candidates with about 27 percent of the vote,

The seat was open due to former Councilman Felipe Fuentes stepping down in September to work as a lobbyist.

Rodriguez received the endorsement of Garcetti and from seven council members, along with Rep. Tony Cardenas and the police and firefighter unions. She has also raised the most money, with \$393,127. Torossian raised the second most in the race, with \$237,273, and also picked up Krekorian's endorsement and that of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley.

In the 5th Council District, Councilman Paul Koretz easily fended off challenges from Jesse Creed, an attorney, and political consultant Mark Herd. Creed had raised the most money of any challenger looking to unseat an incumbent in any other race.

Development has been a big issue in the 5th District, which includes a number of wealthy areas such as Encino, Cheviot Hills, Bel-Air and Westwood that have many residents concerned about traffic and over-building. Creed has made it his campaign's focus, pledging not to take any money from developers during his campaign or while he is in office, while Koretz painted himself as a deal-maker who gets developers and the community to compromise.

In the 9th Council District, incumbent Curren Price handily defeated challengers Jorge Nuno, an activist and graphic designer, and neighborhood council member Adriana Cabrera to continue representing the district, which stretches from the southern part of downtown into South Los Angeles. The district has had a black representative on the council since the 1960s but has become a majority Latino district over the years.

In the 11th Council District, which includes the Westside communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood and Pacific Palisades, Councilman Mike Bonin won easily over Mark Ryavec, a political activist, and Robin Rudisill, a former member of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

In the 13th District, which includes Echo Park, Silver Lake and part of Hollywood, Councilman Mitch O'Farrell also won easily, outpacing five challengers.

In the 15th Council District, which includes San Pedro and Watts, Councilman Joe Buscaino had no difficulty in the race against challengers Noel Gould and Caney Arnold.

In the 3rd Council District, Councilman Bob Blumenfield ran unopposed.

LAist

Garcetti And City Council Incumbents Won Big On Tuesday Night

By Julia Wick

Angelenos trickled to the polls Tuesday night, handing a landslide reelection victory to Mayor Eric Garcetti and decisive wins to six of the eight City Council members vying to keep their seats. Because this was a primary election, contestants in individual races needed to receive more than 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff race in May.

City Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD 5), Curren D. Price, Jr. (CD 9), Mike Bonin (CD 11) and Mitch O'Farrell (CD 13) all bested their challengers to keep their seats with more than 50% of the vote. City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield (CD 3), who was running unopposed, will also obviously keep his seat.

Incumbent Councilmember Gil Cedillo (CD 1) appears to have avoided a runoff against challenger Joe Bray-Ali, a bike activist who got a serious boost after the L.A. Times endorsed him over Cedillo in February. Cedillo is currently at 50.98%; although 100% of precincts have already reported, it remains unclear how many provisional or questioned ballots in the district remain to be tallied, and what their effect could be on the final vote, according to City News Service.

The northeast San Fernando Valley CD 7 seat—the only open seat in the race—will be decided in a May runoff. The former officeholder, Felipe Fuentes, stepped down in August ten months shy of finishing his term to become a lobbyist because YOLO, I guess. Former Public Works commissioner Monica Rodriguez and City Council planning director Karo Torossian will face off in the May runoff after emerging at the top of the crowded field with 27.7 and 16.35% of the vote, respectively.

Mayor Eric Garcetti won in a landslide of Laurel-Canyon-during-the-rains proportions, receiving a whopping 80.87% of the vote. Mitchell Schwartz, his closest challenger, received a little over 8%. Also of note: 3,196 Angelenos voted for someone who goes by the nickname "Zuma Dogg."

Measure S (a.k.a. That Terrible NIMBY Ballot Measure™) suffered a crushing defeat, receiving a mere 31% of the vote.

Measure H, a countywide quarter-cent sales tax to fund homeless services, appears to have received the two-thirds of the vote necessary for it to pass (it's currently at 67.4%) but—like the CD 1 race—it remains too close to call until more of those late ballots come in.

Two of the three seats in contention for the Los Angeles Unified School District board will also be decided in the May runoff. In the board's most closely watched (and heavily funded) race, incumbent school board president Steve Zimmer came about 1500 votes shy of the 50% majority needed to avoid a runoff. Zimmer will continue to compete for his District 4 seat against challenger Nick Melvoin in May. Incumbent Mónica García Kelly won the District 2 race outright with more than 57% of the vote. Kelly Fitzpatrick-Gonez and Imelda Padilla received the one and two slots in the District 6 race, respectively, and will continue to vie for the seat in May.

LA Weekly

Los Angeles Election Results: Down With NIMBYS And A Win For Weed

If you're among the 12-ish percent of registered voters in L.A. who cast ballots in the March 7 Los Angeles election, bravo. Your voice was heard on matters as monumental as the future of development in the city, the influence of charter schools on LAUSD and the influx of recreational and medical marijuana businesses.

Measure S: Should L.A. Get More Dense? — FAILED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: The contentious anti-development ballot initiative measure S has been roundly rejected by voters; the measure got only 31 percent of the vote.

It's difficult to recall a local election that had this many billboards. The near ubiquity of the "Yes on S" billboards is just one indication of how important the issue is, and how contentious — especially compared with everything else on the March 7 ballot.

The Coalition to Preserve L.A., the backers of Measure S, say this was an effort to clean up City Hall, to get money out of politics, to stop "luxury development" and to prevent Los Angeles from becoming a hyper-urbanized city like New York. Measure S opponents successfully argued that the measure would have driven up rents even further by constricting an already tight housing supply — and that it would have made traffic worse by stymieing transit-oriented density. —Hillel Aron

Measure M: Clear the Path for Pot Shops — PASSED

Measure M will allow the City Council to issue permits to existing, Proposition D-compliant medical marijuana dispensaries; will expand the number of legal medical marijuana shops; will clear the path for the licensing of recreational pot shops in 2018; will tax cannabis businesses; and will establish new penalties for illegal weed store operators and the landlords who rent to them.

It also will allow the City Council to establish "regulation of transportation" of cannabis; that could include green-lighting delivery services and apps, which are outlawed under Proposition D.

A similar, competing measure, Measure N, was abandoned by its backer, the United Cannabis Business Alliance, which threw its weight behind Measure M. Measure M trumped N. —Dennis Romero

Measure P: Create Investment Opportunity in the Port of L.A. — PASSED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Measure P passed by more than a 2-to-1 margin, with 67 percent of voters in favor.

L.A. city councilman Joe Buscaino has for years sought to remake the industrial coastline of the 15th District on the model of waterfront success stories such as Seattle and Baltimore. The piers and warehouses that dot the harbor from the Vincent Thomas Bridge all the way south to the breakwater are ripe for commercial retail and residential developments, says Branimir Kvartuc, who is communications director for Buscaino.

What has been lacking, Kvartuc says, is proper incentive for developers to invest. The Port of Los Angeles, a department of the City of L.A. that leases the waterfront property to developers, is bound under California law and the L.A. City Charter to place a maximum term of 50 years on every lease.

The 50-year maximum is one of the main reasons the L.A. waterfront is so underdeveloped, according to Kvartuc. A longer term on leases will make it more feasible for developers to finance projects and upgrade them when the time comes, which is why Buscaino worked with Sacramento to pass a state law increasing the maximum term from 50 years to 66. Mayor Eric Garcetti supports the change in the expectation it will promote tourism, development and investment in the Port of L.A.

To make it official, the voters have allowed the City Charter be amended to reflect the change in state law. (The requirement that the City Council approve all such leases would remain unchanged.) The argument in favor was that this is a "technical amendment" that will assist in attracting private investments to upgrade the L.A. waterfront, bringing economic benefits to the communities of San Pedro and Wilmington. No argument against this proposal was submitted for consideration on the ballot. —Jason McGahan

Measure H: More Money to Help the Homeless — TOO CLOSE TO CALL

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Measure H, the countywide initiative that proposed to add a quarter-cent sales tax to fund homeless services, appeared to have eked out a win, having obtained 67 percent of the vote. That's just barely above the two-thirds threshold it needed to win, although late absentee and provisional ballots could change the result. It could take weeks for all those votes to be counted.

Remember Proposition HHH, the city bond measure Angelenos overwhelmingly passed in November, to build supportive housing for the homeless? Well, the county needs money for the "supportive" part.

Measure H is a countywide ballot measure that would raise the sales tax a quarter of a cent in order to generate about \$355 million a year, for 10 years. That would pay for things including outreach workers, mental health workers, drug addiction counselors and housing subsidies for the 47,000 or so people living in their cars, in shelters or on the streets in L.A. County. The measure, which needs a two-thirds super-majority to pass, is supported by most of the region's elected officials, unions, business groups and nonprofits. —H.A.

Mayor: It's Pretty Much No Contest — ERIC GARCETTI RE-ELECTED (OF COURSE)

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Mayor Eric Garcetti was re-elected by an enormous, Putin-esque margin of victory, swallowing up 80 percent of the vote. His next closest challenger, Mitchell Schwartz, got only 8 percent.

What can we say about Eric Garcetti? He is 46, likes Instagram a lot and was certain to be elected to a second term as mayor, which will last 5½ years as the city changes to even-numbered year elections.

The young mayor's first term hasn't exactly been a barn-burner. He did get the city's minimum wage raised, and he successfully campaigned to pass a November measure that raised taxes to build out the city's burgeoning light rail network. Other than that, he has focused on a "back-to-basics" approach, which has something to do with getting the city's government to work more efficiently behind the scenes.

Meanwhile, crime is going up, L.A. continues to lead the country in police shootings and much of the city is becoming unaffordable for all but the super-rich. Nevertheless, Garcetti is exceedingly popular.

Running against him was a cavalcade of gadflies (like David Saltzburg, aka Zuma Dogg), perennial candidates (like Eric Preven) and weirdos (like Paul E. Amori, whose campaign website is vote4love.com). —H.A.

City Council District 1: Battle of the Bike Lanes — GIL CEDILLO (MOST LIKELY) RE-ELECTED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Councilman Gil Cedillo appears to have avoided a runoff in his re-election bid, having

received 51 percent of the vote — although late absentee and provisional ballots could bump him back down below 50 percent. Rival Joe Bray-Ali got 36 percent, an impressive total for an outsider who raised only \$66,000.

A former union leader and state legislator, Gil Cedillo is one of the most liberal of Los Angeles' 15 City Council members. He was an early supporter of Bernie Sanders in the Democratic Party primary, and his longtime crusade, as a state assemblyman, was to allow undocumented immigrants to get driver's licenses. That earned him a reputation as a tireless advocate for immigrants, as well as the nickname (from detractors) "one-bill Gil."

But his stance against bike lanes may be Cedillo's Achilles' heel.

Running for re-election in March for the Northeast L.A. District 1 seat, Cedillo faced a surprisingly tough challenger in Joe Bray-Ali, a 37-year-old bicycle activist and owner of the Flying Pigeon, a bike shop in Cypress Park. Bray-Ali raised more than \$50,000 in campaign contributions and has qualified for matching funds. Even more impressive: He received the endorsement of the Los Angeles Times editorial board.

City Council District 5: A "Vigorous Attack" on the Westside — PAUL KORETZ RE-ELECTED

Paul Koretz, a longtime fixture in local politics says he'd never been attacked as "vigorously" as he was been during this campaign.

The attack "is interesting from a candidate that has no connections to the Council District in any way, shape or form, other than living here for a few years," Koretz said. "I live about a block away from him. I'd never heard of him. He wasn't part of the community. People have been trying to figure out why he's running."

He's referring, of course, to Jesse Creed, the 31-year-old attorney who works at Munger, Tolles & Olson.

Creed had Koretz's attention for one reason: He raised money. Lots of money — \$264,629 as of late February, to be exact, according to the City Ethics Commission website. That's more than any other City Council challenger this year.

Much of that money came through Creed's Munger, Tolles & Olson connections, and some of it may have come through his brother, Brandon Creed, a successful music manager with Hollywood connections. Throw in another \$100,000 in matching funds, and it started to look like real money, although Koretz still raised \$120,000 more than Creed.

The L.A. Times editorial board was coolly dismissive of Creed, writing that his experience is "a good start for an aggressive young activist who wants to become involved in community matters, but it is not enough to merit a seat on the City Council." The board instead chose to endorse Koretz, though its praise for the incumbent was tepid: "After two terms in office, it's troubling that he hasn't been more of a leader on the important citywide issues he says he cares about — the creation of affordable housing, for example." —H.A.

City Council District 7: A Whopping 20 Candidates — RUNOFF

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: The two perceived frontrunners are heading to a runoff in May. Monica Rodriguez finished in first place with 28 percent of the vote. Karo Torossian finished second with 16 percent. School Board member Monica Ratliff finished third and appears to have narrowly missed out on the runoff by 261 votes — though provisional ballots could see her supplant Torossian.

The east San Fernando Valley's District 7 is L.A.'s only open City Council seat — and as a result there were 20 candidates running to fill a seat vacated by the wildly unpopular Felipe Fuentes, who decided he had better things to do than stick around City Hall (like go be a lobbyist).

The three top contenders to replace him were Monica Rodriguez, a former vice president of the Board of Public Works; Karo Torossian, an aide to City Councilman Paul Krekorian; and Monica Ratliff, a Los Angeles Unified Board Member. Rodriguez, the most well-connected of the bunch, was endorsed by the mayor, half of City Council and many of the city's major unions.

Both she and Torossian raised more than \$200,000. Ratliff hadn't raised nearly as much — about \$44,000 — but did manage to gain the endorsement of the L.A. Times. And she has prior experience besting a well-funded, well-connected candidate, as she did in her 2013 school board election.

As the Times noted, the other candidates include a stuntman, a bookkeeper and the owner of a sports bar.

The Northeast Valley is the most unpredictable electorate in Los Angeles, having handed out upsets time and time again, not just with Ratliff but also with Patty Lopez, the political neophyte who defeated sitting State Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra in 2014. (Bocanegra promptly snatched the seat back two years later; now Lopez is running for Ratliff's school board seat; to everything, turn, turn, turn ...). —H.A.

City Council District 9: Development and Its Discontents — CURREN PRICE RE-ELECTED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Councilman Curren Price avoided a runoff, winning 63 percent of the vote. Price defeated newcomers Jorge Nuño (23 percent) and Adriana Cabrera (14 percent).

High-end development was slow to arrive to the neighborhoods flanking the Harbor Freeway, below the I-10, in the historic core of South Central Los Angeles. District 9 reaches south from the USC campus and University Park down the South Figueroa Corridor through the South Park, Florence and Vermont-Slauson neighborhoods. It is the poorest and among the most crime-ridden districts in L.A.

Curren Price, the first-term City Council member from the 9th who chairs the council's Economic Development Committee, has done the responsible thing time and again — raising the minimum wage, legalizing street vendors, lowering barriers to convicted felons seeking employment. But these measures are nickel-and-dime compared with the major commercial retail and residential developments in store for the 9th, which have stoked local fears of gentrification and displacement.

Price helped to guide a \$1.2 billion development proposal known as the Reef to unanimous council approval. The high-rise project includes one tower 35 stories tall, and luxury condominiums and apartments, a hotel, a grocery store and other commercial retail. Its approval has raised worries of a sudden rise in property values that cast a shadow over the potential new jobs created.

Price has said he hopes the Reef sets a precedent for future development projects in the 9th, but the terms of the deal

estate deal, which will set aside only 5 percent of the rental units for low-income housing, have drawn criticism from the local grassroots and put wind in the sails of challengers for his council seat. Price did secure from the developers \$15 million in donations to a fund for below-market housing and an additional \$3 million to community programs such as job training and violence prevention.

Price, 66, is the latest in a 55-year succession of African-American City Council members from the 9th. He faced two challengers from a significantly younger, Latino demographic who were born and raised in the district: graphic designer Jorge Nuño and community activist Adriana Cabrera. Both challengers boast ties to the grassroots organizations for whom displacement and financial hardship are a growing concern. The Times endorsed Nuño, 40, for his "entrepreneurial drive" to negotiate a harder bargain with investors (he runs a community center for nonprofits and small businesses out of the Craftsman mansion where he lives). —J.M.

City Council District 11: The Heart of Homelessness in Venice — MIKE BONIN RE-ELECTED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Councilman Mike Bonin got 70 percent of the vote, handily defeating challengers Mark Ryavec (16 percent) and Robin Rudisill (14 percent).

Westside councilman Mike Bonin is a product of a liberal dynasty. He's the protégé of former councilman Bill Rosendahl, who died last year after a long battle with cancer.

The district includes West L.A., Westchester, Mar Vista and a Venice community divided between its hippie past and its gentrified future. Bonin is a defender of the former but not without criticism, particularly from homeless advocates who say his heart doesn't bleed enough (he supported, for example, restrictions on transients sleeping in parked cars).

Challenger Mark Ryavec, a longtime neighborhood group leader, constantly complained that the city is too soft on the homeless: They commit crime, use Venice as an outdoor bathroom and lower the quality of life in the district. Bonin's other challenger, Robin Rudisill, was another challenge from the right of him. The former Bank of America executive chaired the land-use and planning committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council. —D.R.

City Council District 13: Hipster Housing Crisis in Northeast L.A. — MITCH O'FARRELL RE-ELECTED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Councilman Mitch O'Farrell got 60 percent of the vote. The next nearest candidates were Sylvie Shain with 14 percent and Jessica Salans with 13 percent.

Mitch O'Farrell's district is at the heart of the city's debate over development, gentrification and the housing crisis. It includes Echo Park, Silver Lake and Frogtown, plus parts of Koreatown and Hollywood, so it's a hipster's tour of L.A., where rents are skyrocketing, home prices often top \$1 million and homeless encampments abound.

O'Farrell was defending his turf by advocating the construction of new housing, a stance that's the bane of the not-in-my-backyard crowd, including challengers Doug Haines, David de la Torre and Bill Zide. To his left were tenants' rights advocate Sylvie Shain, who said she'd be a champion for immigrant communities, and Jessica Salans, who wanted to see one out of five new housing units dedicated to lower- or median-income residents. —D.R.

City Council District 15: Big-Time Contributions From Developers in South Bay — JOE BUSCAINO RE-ELECTED

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: Councilman Joe Buscaino cruised to victory with 73 percent of the vote. Challenger Caney Arnold got 17 percent; Noel Gould got 9 percent.

Joe Buscaino was defending his South Bay seat. He's a former cop who spearheaded the recharged effort to finally legalize street vendors in the city, and his attempt to put a half-cent sales-tax hike before voters in order to help pay street and sidewalk repairs was abandoned in 2014. He also was behind a city law that restricts high-speed, downhill skateboarding. But his biggest mark on the city so far might not be a good one: The councilman's campaign took \$94,700 from the developer of the Sea Breeze, an apartment project in Harbor Gateway that needs council approval (over the objections of neighbors who think it's too large and imposing).

Challengers included Noel Gould, who "strongly supports" Measure S, the failed initiative that would have put a temporary stop to most development in L.A., and Caney Arnold, a fiscal conservative and critic of Buscaino. —D.R.

Clockwise from top left: Nick Melvoin is one of three challengers to Steve Zimmer in District 4; Lisa Alva, an English teacher at Bravo Medical Magnet School, is the challenger endorsed by the L.A. Times to replace Monica García in District 2; García and Zimmer are the two longest-serving incumbents on the board. Courtesy of Nick Melvoin/Facebook Campaign Page @alvawins2017/LAUSD

L.A. Board of Education (Districts 2, 4 and 6): Perhaps the Most Expensive LAUSD Election Yet — TWO RUNOFFS AND AN INCUMBENT WIN

UPDATE, March 8, 9:15 a.m.: In District 4, LAUSD school board president Steve Zimmer has been narrowly forced into a runoff against charter-backed challenger Nick Melvoin. Zimmer, who is backed by the teachers union, won 47 percent of the vote but needed more than 50 percent to avoid a runoff, which will take place in May. Melvoin won 31 percent of the vote. District 4 covers the Westside and West San Fernando Valley.

In District 2, incumbent Mónica García won with 58 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff.

In District 6, the race for the open seat will proceed to a runoff between charter-backed candidate Kelly Fitzpatrick-Gonez and union-backed candidate Imelda Padilla. Fitzpatrick-Gonez got 36 percent of the vote and Padilla came in second, with 31 percent.

It is no secret that the big money in the March 7 Los Angeles city election was going to the three races for the school board. This was the outside money, the "dark money," the "independent expenditures," the donations from third-party groups for or against a particular candidate, funds that are limitless and anonymous so long as they are not in the control of the candidate's campaign.

This year the amount of outside money going to races for the Los Angeles Board of Education was on pace to make the March 7 election the most expensive LAUSD school board election yet. Nowhere near the amount of outside money in the school board contests went to the other city races — which included the mayor, city controller, city attorney and eight seats on the City Council.

A reported 61 cents of every dollar contributed to the L.A. city election was spent on supporting or opposing one candidate or another for school board, according to the L.A. City Ethics Commission. Most of it was coming from backers of public charter schools. As of late last month, charter backers were outspending labor unions there by a ratio of 2-to-1. Former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan upped the ante by donating \$1 million in January to a group called L.A. Students for Change.

ABC News

In little watched election LA mayor's big win is development

By Michael Blood

Mayor Eric Garcetti claimed a second term in a walkaway election, but his real victory came in beating back restrictions on denser, high-rise development that he sees as part of the antidote to L.A.'s notorious traffic and smog.

The horizon of a new Los Angeles can be seen in towering construction cranes looming over Hollywood and downtown. The city is the cradle of the car culture but as more buildings reach skyward some neighborhoods fear Los Angeles is in danger of becoming a sunnier, West Coast version of Manhattan.

In downtown, the Wilshire Grand Center, scheduled to be completed this year, will be 73 stories or about 1,100 feet tall, making it the tallest building on the West Coast.

In Tuesday's election, the slow-growth proposal known as Measure S challenged Garcetti's vision for building thousands of new apartments clustered around a growing network of subway and rail stations. He's also sought to make the city's car-choked thoroughfares more alluring to walkers.

It's supporters argued that City Hall too often bends to politically connected developers whose large projects with high rents drive out lower-income residents, contributing to homelessness and increasing congestion. However, the attempt to yoke large-scale development was soundly defeated, 69 percent to 31 percent, according to unofficial returns.

The vote shows Angelenos want to "take full advantage of our 21st century transit system," Ron Miller of the Los Angeles-Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council said in a statement.

The fight over development went to a core issue as Los Angeles continues to grow — what the city should look like in years to come. For now, it was an endorsement of the mayor and his policies that are trying to encourage people to leave their cars behind.

Garcetti, 46, claimed over 80 percent of the vote against 10 little-known rivals, after building a wide fundraising edge and successfully discouraging competition. But his crushing victory also has to be considered in light of the meager turnout Tuesday and the absence of strong opponents.

Voters in the city of 4 million often shrug at local politics. On Tuesday, only about 250,000 people voted in the mayor's race, which suggests a turnout of roughly 12 percent, according to unofficial tallies.

The mayor had just over 200,000 votes.

A preliminary analysis of mail-in ballots by research firm Political Data Inc. found that those who voted were generally older and whiter than the city's voters as a whole. For example, about one-third of city voters are Hispanic, but Latinos represented 16 percent of those who mailed in ballots.

Older, white homeowners tend to be among the most reliable voters, younger people, especially, minorities among the least.

After greeting voters in a bagel shop Wednesday, the mayor didn't rule out the possibility of a future campaign for governor or U.S. Senate, but added that he's focused on leading L.A.

He told reporters that his priorities would be homelessness, jobs and transportation. He ordered a chorizo bagel, which he joked represented his mixed background, Mexican and Jewish.

"I'm back to City Hall today, the job I love," he said.

Another city ballot measure sets up a new regulatory scheme for marijuana, which will become legal for recreational users next year. Medical cannabis has been legal in the state for two decades. It was widely agreed the city had an unworkable system.

"Today is a new day for cannabis regulations in L.A.," the Los Angeles Cannabis Task Force, a trade group, said in a statement. "It's time for everyone to work together for a safer industry and toward a common goal, so our city can be a model for the state and the world."

A Los Angeles County measure that asked for a quarter-cent sales tax increase to pay for homeless services got 67.4 percent support from about 550,000 votes. That was barely above the two-thirds threshold needed for passage but there still are an unknown number of mail-in and provisional ballots left to count.

The election came at a time of renewal and struggles for Los Angeles.

Once-dreary downtown has seen a rebirth, and new residents and trendy restaurants have been moving in. A stronger economy has helped bring jobs, including to the tech industry hub known as Silicon Beach. And a region without an NFL team for two decades now has two, the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers.

But poverty rates remain alarming, and tents used by the homeless run for blocks along some downtown streets. Violent crime has climbed for the third consecutive year, jumping by 37 percent from 2014 to 2016. And drivers continue to face some of the nation's worst gridlock, while potholes and cracked sidewalks bring gripes across the city.

NBC Los Angeles

City Development: LA Voters Solidly Defeat Hotly Debated Measure S

By City News Service

Los Angeles voters Tuesday night solidly defeated Measure S, a hotly debated initiative aimed at limiting development by

blocking General Plan amendments for two years.

The initiative was the most expensive -- and in many ways the most bitter -- campaign in the Los Angeles city election. The measure would have halted all General Plan amendments, or special permission to developers known as "spot zoning," for two years while the city updates its General Plan and community plans that guide neighborhood development.

The measure's backers argued that City Hall is plagued by a "pay-to-play" climate in which wealthy developers who contribute money to elected officials' campaigns get spot zoning requests granted while the proliferation of high-rise towers and other expensive developments have caused increases in the cost of housing.

Opponents argued the measure goes too far, saying a halt to all General Plan amendments would undercut the city's efforts to build affordable housing and housing for the homeless while severely hurting the local economy.

Officials also argued that updating the General Plan and community plans within two years is not possible.

"We have been committed for 15 months, and so many of you have joined the team. And you said we cannot let this happen to our community," Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Gary Toebben told a crowd of Measure S opponents in downtown Los Angeles. "We cannot put people out of work. We cannot take homes away from people. We cannot let Measure S devastate our community. And so far tonight it looks like the public agreed with us." Rusty Hicks, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, credited a wide-ranging coalition for helping defeat the measure.

"This could not have happened without business, labor and community organizations that were the true face of this coalition going around, knocking on doors, making phone calls, talking to friends and family, boots on the ground, making a difference," Hicks said.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation bankrolled the measure by supplying nearly all of the \$3.2 million the campaign received this year as of March 1, compared to the roughly \$5.9 million opponents of the measure have raised from developers, labor unions and other organizations.

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Controller Ron Galperin and several City Council members, including Jose Huizar and Marqueece Harris-Dawson, actively campaigned against the measure.

Critics said the AHF's entry into the housing debate is not in its purview, essentially amounting to a misappropriation of its funds. The AHF, under the direction of its longtime CEO, Michael Weinstein, sued the city in 2016 over its approval of two 28-story towers next to its Hollywood headquarters, and some have questioned if Weinstein's battle against development is personal.

Weinstein "has sadly injected his organization into a debate over land use that has nothing to do with HIV or AIDS health care," Galperin said in February.

Weinstein defended the spending as health-related and within the purview of his mission.

"Our patients are becoming homeless and our employees have to travel longer and longer distances to get to work,"

Weinstein told City News Service in January. "And this is our international headquarters and we try and be good corporate citizens."

He also said, "We take an expansive view of health. We believe that the social determinants of health are equally important to the medical conditions patients suffer from."

In what was essentially an open response to Measure S, the City Council passed a number of motions this year that address some of the issues it raises.

In February, the council approved a motion that calls for an ordinance requiring the city to update its community plans every six years and requiring developers to select environmental impact report consultants from a pre-approved city list. Both of those steps were included Measure S -- although the measure would require the city to update the community plans every five years after they are initially updated.

The city has not updated many of its 35 community plans in more than 15 years. The plans set zoning guidelines for neighborhoods and break down in detail what can and cannot be built in certain areas. But because the plans have not been updated, the council is often granting special requests to developers to build bigger or higher projects than the zoning guidelines allow.

A recent analysis by the Los Angeles Times found that 90 percent of all General Plan amendments, zoning or height district changes heard by the city's Planning Commission or local planning commissions have been granted since 2000. Huizar acknowledged that the city's move to expedite community plan updates was a direct response to Measure S, but said he was opposed to the measure because the ban on General Plan amendments would harm the economy.

Garcetti focused on housing for the homeless in his opposition to Measure S. In January, he held a news conference to argue that city voters' passage of a \$1.2 billion measure in November to build housing for the homeless would be hurt because many of the sites the city is looking at for shelters would require General Plan amendments.

"Measure S will raise rents and will stymie our work to house the homeless. We can, and we will, build a welcoming city where children can grow up and afford to live in their hometown, and their parents can be secure about providing a home for their families. Let's say no to Measure S and then let's get to work together," he said.

Jill Stewart, campaign manager for the Yes on S campaign, said an analysis by the group found that only a "minuscule" amount of affordable housing projects since 2000 have required a major zoning change or General Plan amendment. Of all the major developments approved by the council in recent times, the Sea Breeze development in Harbor Gateway has been one of the most criticized in relation to the issues Measure S raises.

The Times reported in October that donors identified as being directly or indirectly connected to the project's developer, Samuel Leung, gave more than \$600,000 in campaign donations to several members of the City Council and an independent campaign committee that supported Mayor Eric Garcetti.

The donations were made from 2008 to 2015, when Leung was seeking city approval for his 352-unit complex, according

to the newspaper.

The project required a zoning change, and Garcetti and the City Council overruled planning commission officials in changing zoning rules to allow the project to move forward.

Next City

Los Angeles Votes Down Planning Overhaul

By Rachel Dovey

Los Angeles voters Tuesday reelected Mayor Eric Garcetti and voted down an anti-development measure that could have halted the creation of more multiunit housing. But voter turnout was remarkably low despite the somewhat high profile of what was on the ballot (as far as city elections go) — and despite Twitter exhortations from the likes of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Gavin Newsom (California lieutenant governor, and former mayor of San Francisco).

The win for Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles' pro-development, pro-transit, pro-climate incumbent mayor, surprised no one and was characterized by the Los Angeles Times as a landslide.

Garcetti won reelection with 80.9 percent of the vote according to the Times — but while that may be a landslide as far as proportions go, he received only about 200,000 votes. The Times estimates voter turnout to have been at about 11 percent.

Noting the low number, one person tweeted: "That means there were more podcasts recorded in this city today than votes."

Voter turnout in city elections is notoriously sparse, of course, but according to the Knight Foundation, roughly 1 in 5 voters tends to show up for mayoral elections — a figure that suggests Tuesday's primary was particularly poorly attended.

Measure S was the other hot item on the ticket — in as much as local zoning measures can be hot. It was voted down by a wide margin, with roughly 69 percent voting no.

That's a promising figure for L.A.'s pro-development community, as Josh Stephens wrote for Next City in February. The measure, also called the "Neighborhood Integrity Initiative" would have "vaporized" the city's current planning and development process, he wrote, and effectively favored the "lower-density, sleepy Los Angeles of decades ago instead of the denser, more dynamic metropolis that is trying to molt out of its 20th-century skin."

Drawing parallels with the (primarily white) surges of nationalism and nostalgia that helped to elect U.S. President Donald Trump and eject the U.K. from the European Union, Stephens wrote that Measure S, essentially, sought to "make Los Angeles great again."

It was easily beaten, but not everyone saw the promise of a more inclusive city in the primary results. According to the Times, protesters gathered outside the mayor's election night party, demanding that he take a firmer stance against the current president — and federal deportations.

"Our friends and neighbors are under attack! What do we do?" a man shouted as partygoers wearing suits and dresses walked past, the Times reports.

"Stand up fight back!" the crowd reportedly shouted back. The reporter also heard shouts of: "Our city, not Garcetti!"

Several other measures were on the ballot yesterday — notably a tax for homelessness services, which passed — along with council and school board positions. A full list, along with results, can be viewed [here](#).

LA Times

Opinion: LA voters said it in November and March: They want more housing, more affordability and more transit

By Kerry Cavanaugh

In the lead-up to Tuesday's election, there was a lot of hand-wringing over L.A.'s identity and whether voters would cling to the city's suburban past or charge into a more urban future. Turns out, Los Angeles voters really do want a city of mass transit, taller buildings and affordable apartment housing. They overwhelmingly rejected Measure S, a slow-growth, anti-development ballot measure that would have imposed a two-year moratorium on building projects that required zone changes and other exemptions from existing, albeit outdated, land-use rules. Proponents of Measure S took aim at high-rises in Hollywood and dense apartment complexes in West Los Angeles — projects that opponents said were smart examples of concentrating growth next to transit lines.

Voters also reelected Mayor Eric Garcetti with a landslide 80% of the vote. Garcetti has talked about making the city more dense, affordable, transit-oriented and environmentally friendly. Garcetti's easy reelection is no surprise; he has avoided crisis and scandal in his first term and didn't face a serious threat from a challenger. But Measure S also was seen as a referendum on his vision of the city and his leadership in City Hall, so the failure of the measure is also a win for him.

Last November, county voters passed Measure M, which raised the sales tax to build more rail and bus lines. City voters also endorsed Measure HHH to build housing for the homeless and Measure JJJ to allow exemptions from land-use laws if the development projects include affordable housing and pay construction workers union-level wages.

Measure S was originally supposed to be on that ballot too, but proponents moved their initiative to the March election, which typically has lower turnout and a more conservative, older, homeowner electorate. Yet Measure S still failed by a large margin. November wasn't a fluke. Los Angeles voters have now sent a message about what kind of city they want: more housing, more affordable, more public transit.

LA Times

What's next after Measure S? LA must tackle the issues brought up during the campaign, advocates say

By Dave Zahniser

Despite all the noise and fury over density, traffic and out-of-scale development this election season, the battle over Measure S turned out to be something of a rout.

Business, political and labor leaders who warned that the measure would deliver a shock to Los Angeles' economy secured an overwhelming victory, with nearly 69% of voters rejecting it.

Yet, in the wake of that lopsided victory, some foes of Measure S — which sought a crackdown on large-scale development projects — sounded wary about taking too much of a victory lap. City leaders, they say, still need to confront the issues that dominated the campaign, such as the high cost of housing and the need for better planning.

"We want to be excited about the win. But ultimately, this doesn't fix anything," said Shane Phillips, policy director for the advocacy group Abundant Housing L.A. "Beating Measure S just means we don't make things worse."

Gary Toebben, president and chief executive of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, struck a similar tone.

"We have nothing to be cocky about," he said. "The fact is, we should just be so thankful and appreciative that the voters understood the importance of continued construction of residential and commercial projects in our city."

Had Measure S passed, it would have dealt a crushing blow to Mayor Eric Garcetti's push to add 100,000 housing units — and his vision of transforming Los Angeles into a denser, more walkable, more transit-oriented city.

Measure S took aim at the city's practice of rewriting its planning rules — granting height and zoning changes, for example, or offering other concessions — for developers on a case-by-case basis. The proposal also would have recommended updates to the city's 35 community plans, most of which are more than 15 years old.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which sponsored Measure S, argued repeatedly that City Hall was greenlighting out-of-scale, luxury residential projects whose prices were far out of reach for working-class families — and driving up rents on surrounding streets.

Opponents of Measure S countered by warning that a halt to housing production would cause rents to spiral even higher — an argument laid out on the campaign's website goestoofar.com.

That warning proved to be especially effective with voters, said Mike Shimpock, campaign manager for the Coalition to Protect L.A. Neighborhoods and Jobs, an anti-S group. Polling by Shimpock's group also found that residents across the city were upbeat about L.A.'s future — and therefore less likely to back measures that could jeopardize its progress.

"When people feel that Los Angeles is on the right track, they are not as open to things that are going to derail it," said Shimpock. "And this certainly would have derailed a lot of the resurgence that's happening."

In the campaign's final weeks, City Council members sought to undermine the Measure S campaign's critique of the city by voting to update its community plans by 2024. And several city lawmakers called for a prohibition on campaign donations from developers to city candidates — a proposal aimed at blunting Measure S assertions that City Hall has a "pay to play" culture in approving out-of-scale projects.

Larry Gross, who heads the tenant advocacy group Coalition for Economic Survival, said the city's elected officials should view Measure S as a warning sign. Measure S got as far as it did, he said, because of "the inaction of City Hall."

With the campaign over, city lawmakers now need to focus on protecting tenants, by halting the demolition of rent-controlled apartments and developing more affordable housing, said Gross, who campaigned against Measure S.

"These developers need to recognize they can't go into communities and just bulldoze them and put up luxury housing," he said. "Because the next time around, there will be another initiative which will deal with these issues directly, and will gather more support."

Meanwhile, fights over development will rage on.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation is continuing to pursue lawsuits against two multistory projects in Hollywood that received key changes in city rules. The group's allies also have challenges against projects in Koreatown, South Los Angeles, Sherman Oaks and the city's Westside.

Richard Close, president of the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Assn., predicted more lawsuits in the wake of the Measure S defeat.

"The city doesn't follow its own rules," said Close, who campaigned for Measure S. "So you're going to see even more litigation throughout the city."

In the campaign's final days, Michael Weinstein, the top executive at the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, argued that the Yes on S camp had already wrested major changes out of City Hall. On election night, he portrayed the campaign as a "citywide movement around planning and development and integrity of neighborhoods."

"This is the opening shot," he told the crowd. "This is the opening gambit."

With L.A. now working to rewrite its community plans, the debate over where to put high-density housing will likely move to the neighborhood level, advocates say.

Those community plans are central to the city's effort to accommodate population growth. But any push to allow more density could face pushback from neighborhood groups worried about traffic and increasing the burden on out-of-date infrastructure.

Ed Casey, a land use attorney with the firm Alston & Bird, said he expects "a lot of heated debate" on those plans.

Phillips, the policy director for Abundant Housing L.A., said city leaders should build on Tuesday's election victory, by ensuring that those plans allow for much more housing construction.

As the plans are revised, city leaders should "upzone" major transit corridors, allowing greater amounts of housing. L.A.'s boulevards, Phillips said, represent the city's best chance to build homes in a way that does not displace existing renters.

"These fights aren't going to stop," he said. "Figuring out where housing should go — where it's appropriate and where it's

not appropriate — that's not going to go away. But it's going to go from a citywide debate to a community-by-community discussion."

My News LA

Corruption exposed? Best face in defeat by anti developer Measure S backers

Putting their best face on a stinging defeat, backers of the hotly contested anti-development Measure S insisted early Wednesday they exposed corruption and launched Los Angeles city government reforms.

The initiative was clobbered at the polls in Tuesday's election, and it aimed at limiting development in the city of Los Angeles in part by blocking General Plan amendments for two years.

"We not only exposed corruption but we began a process of reform," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which largely bankrolled the campaign in support of Measure S. "We built a citywide movement and we planted the seeds of change. Los Angeles will be a better place to live as a result of the Yes on S campaign." Measure S was handily defeated by voters in Tuesday's election by a two-thirds margin. The initiative was the most expensive — and in many ways the most bitter — campaign in the Los Angeles city election.

The measure would have halted all General Plan amendments, or special permission to developers known as "spot zoning," for two years while the city updates its General Plan and community plans that guide neighborhood development.

The measure's backers argued that City Hall is plagued by a "pay-to-play" climate in which wealthy developers who contribute money to elected officials' campaigns get spot zoning requests granted while the proliferation of high-rise towers and other expensive developments have caused increases in the cost of housing.

Opponents, however, argued the measure goes too far, saying a halt to all General Plan amendments would undercut the city's efforts to build affordable housing and housing for the homeless while severely hurting the local economy. Officials also argued that updating the General Plan and community plans within two years is not possible.

"We have been committed for 15 months, and so many of you have joined the team. And you said we cannot let this happen to our community," Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Gary Toebben told a crowd of Measure S opponents in downtown Los Angeles Tuesday night. "We cannot put people out of work. We cannot take homes away from people. We cannot let Measure S devastate our community. And so far tonight it looks like the public agreed with us."

Rusty Hicks, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, credited a wide-ranging coalition for helping defeat the measure.

"This could not have happened without business, labor and community organizations that were the true face of this coalition going around, knocking on doors, making phone calls, talking to friends and family, boots on the ground, making a difference," Hicks said.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation bankrolled the measure by supplying nearly all of the \$3.2 million the campaign received this year as of March 1, compared to the roughly \$5.9 million opponents of the measure have raised from developers, labor unions and other organizations.

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Controller Ron Galperin and several City Council members, including Jose Huizar and Marqueece Harris-Dawson, actively campaigned against the measure.

Critics said the AHF's entry into the housing debate was not in its purview, essentially amounting to a misappropriation of its funds. The AHF, under the direction of Weinstein, sued the city in 2016 over its approval of two 28-story towers next to its Hollywood headquarters, and some have questioned if Weinstein's battle against development is personal.

Weinstein "has sadly injected his organization into a debate over land use that has nothing to do with HIV or AIDS health care," Galperin said in February.

Weinstein defended the spending as health-related and within the purview of his mission.

"Our patients are becoming homeless and our employees have to travel longer and longer distances to get to work," Weinstein told City News Service in January. "And this is our international headquarters and we try and be good corporate citizens."

Despite opposition to Measure S, some of its provisions did lead to changes in development oversight at City Hall. In February, the council approved a motion that calls for an ordinance requiring the city to update its community plans every six years and requiring developers to select environmental impact report consultants from a pre-approved city list. Both of those steps were included Measure S — although the measure would have required the city to update the community plans every five years after they are initially updated.

"Everyone is now in agreement that developers should not write their own environmental impact reports and not have private communications with city planning commissioners, that we should have updated plans for the city and that exemptions from zoning rules should be the exception, not the rule," Weinstein said Wednesday.

The city has not updated many of its 35 community plans in more than 15 years. The plans set zoning guidelines for neighborhoods and break down in detail what can and cannot be built in certain areas. But because the plans have not been updated, the council is often granting special requests to developers to build bigger or higher projects than the zoning guidelines allow.

A recent analysis by the Los Angeles Times found that 90 percent of all General Plan amendments, zoning or height district changes heard by the city's Planning Commission or local planning commissions have been granted since 2000. Huizar acknowledged that the city's move to expedite community plan updates was a direct response to Measure S, but said he was opposed to the measure because the ban on General Plan amendments would harm the economy.

Garcetti contended the Measure S would have hurt the city's ability to combat homelessness, because many of the sites

But Jim Stewart, campaign manager for the Yes on S campaign, said an analysis by the group found that only a "minuscule" amount of affordable housing projects since 2000 have required a major zoning change or General Plan amendment.

Daily News

Why did LA voters take a wrecking ball to Measure S?

By Dana Bartholemew

Three decades ago, Los Angeles voters worried about protecting their neighborhoods roundly passed Proposition U, a measure to severely limit growth.

But the defeat of Measure S by seven out of 10 voters Tuesday signaled construction cranes will not be quieted across Los Angeles.

"I think it's great for the city," declared freshly re-elected Mayor Eric Garcetti, a strong opponent of the growth-restrictive measure, while on a swing Wednesday morning through Larchmont Village. "I think we can continue our work on ending homelessness and reducing our rents by building housing. We're not going to lose momentum on building housing, and I think that doesn't come at the expense of our neighborhoods."

That Measure S was so soundly trounced shocked even its most ardent foes — and supporters.

The so-called Neighborhood Integrity Initiative was supposed to end what supporters claimed was a broken "pay-to-play" land-use system that favored developers over local residents.

Backers said the initiative would fix a system in which developers cut cozy deals at City Hall to green-light projects that don't conform to community zoning. It would have put a two-year halt to such "spot zoning" changes, or any amendments to the General Plan.

The Yes on S campaign pointed to a growing number of luxury towers it said were clogging streets, affecting traffic and displacing longtime renters.

Instead, voters Tuesday believed a coalition of labor groups, business leaders, housing advocates and politicians who said that Measure S would put the kibosh on housing construction during a housing squeeze.

And that it would cost thousands of jobs, they said. And tip L.A. into another economic recession.

"Defeating Measure S has spared our city from a future that would've meant fewer jobs, fewer funds for critical public services, fewer new homes for those who desperately need them and even less affordable rents," Rusty Hicks, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, said in a statement.

Angelenos also voted that L.A. should grow upward — especially near transit stops — in a city famous for its historic bungalows and housing tracts.

"With the defeat of Measure S, Angelenos embraced a vision of Los Angeles as an innovative city where active transportation is welcomed," said Carol Feucht of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition.

But as the early election returns marked what would be an overwhelming defeat, backers of Measure S were saying they'd won a pyrrhic victory by putting a spotlight on billionaire developers and their alleged back-room deals.

"This campaign will go down in the record books as one of the most successful campaigns that did not actually win the vote," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, a key funder of Measure S.

He said everyone at City Hall now agrees that community plans should be updated, that exemptions to zoning should be the exception. And that developers should not communicate privately with planning commissioners or write their own environmental impact reports.

Campaign officials blamed messages from the "no" coalition they said were misleading about less affordable housing, more homelessness and a potential recession if the measure had passed.

"I think that the lies and scare tactics won out," said Ileana Wachtel, spokeswoman for the Coalition to Preserve L.A., the campaign to support Measure S. "Labor came out and said everyone would lose their jobs. People were scared. I think voters were confused, and when they're confused they vote no."

Some in the San Fernando Valley, where the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association had strongly backed the measure, disagreed with that assessment. Or that voters had rejected "pay-to-play" allegations of corruption.

"Voters didn't reject pay-to-play," said Stuart Waldman, president of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association, which opposed Measure S. "Voters rejected NIMBYism."

"They are sick of angry, wealthy homeowners who don't want people moving into their neighborhood, driving into their neighborhood, or parking in their neighborhood," he added. "And I believe I just described the Sherman Oaks HOA."

Others in the Valley agreed, saying the Yes on S campaign had not done a good job in explaining the implications of the growth-control measure, whether it would apply to 40-story buildings or the proposed McMansion house next door.

"The reasons it lost were two reasons the opposition explained well: money and jobs," said Martin M. Cooper, owner of a public relations firm and civic leader who wrote a recent history of the postwar Valley, who voted yes on S. "They scared people into believing we would lose a lot of jobs."

"It was not a coincidence that Mayor Garcetti's victory party was held at a union hall."

Streetsblog

March 2017 Election Wrap Up: Joe Bray-Ali and Measures S and H

By Joe Linton

Yesterday's 2017 primary election had plenty of good news for advancing livability in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, voter turnout was dismal, and even lower than expected. Preliminary figures show that only 11.29 (KPCC) or 11.45 percent (L.A. Times) of eligible registered voters cast ballots. KPCC points out that this is three percent lower than in 2013, the

last off-year primary.

The election saw L.A. City incumbents returning to power. This is a mixed bag that includes livability champions, councilmembers Mike Bonin, Joe Buscaino, and Bob Blumenfield, and some mostly good but sometimes disappointing voices, including Mayor Eric Garcetti and councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, and some vocally anti-bike councilmembers: Pau! Koretz and Curren Price. One race still hangs on a razor-thin margin, where anti-bike councilmember Gil Cedillo is hovering at nearly 51 percent, with enough votes remaining uncounted to swing the race into a runoff with bicycle community leader Joe Bray-Ali.

At the time of publication, the L.A. County Clerk elections website reports that incumbent Cedillo came in first, garnering 6,702 votes out of 13,147 cast in the Council District 1 race, which is 50.98 percent of the votes cast. To win the primary outright, Cedillo needs over 50 percent of the vote; under current totals that is 6,574 votes. Cedillo's current tally gives him a 128-vote margin. If Cedillo receives less than 50 percent, he will face Bray-Ali in a May 16 runoff.

While 100 percent of precincts have been tallied, there is still a trickle of hundreds of uncounted ballots to be tallied in the coming days. These include provisional ballots and write-ins. While the total number of uncounted ballots is not clear, the Bray-Ali campaign asserts there are "likely 2,000 or so ballots left to process." The uncounted ballots are almost definitely enough to erase Cedillo's margin, but they could also maintain or add to his lead. In any case, it is still too tight to call the race definitively. The picture should be clearer soon, as the County Clerk prepares final results, which are due by the end of the month. If the margin holds or shrinks, a re-count could be in order.

Joe Bray-Ali, who under current totals came in second with 4,750 votes (36.13 percent), stated, "This [election] is by no means over until we've seen the substantial number of ballots still left to count. We're preparing for a runoff and making sure the votes are counted accurately and fairly."

Measure S, the so-called "Neighborhood Integrity Initiative" which would have banned various types of development, was defeated by a wide margin: 69 percent "no" votes at press time. This leaves Los Angeles with, in the words of SBLA Communities Editor Sahra Sulaiman, our current "terrible, horrible" status quo. While Measure S passage would have made issues worse, defeating Measure S does not solve segregation, exclusion, gentrification, homelessness, evictions, NIMBYism, outdated plans, anti-development litigation, influence peddling, mansionization, excessive parking requirements, or a host of other pressing planning and development issues.

Nonetheless it is important that a broad coalition – from labor to business to housing to bicyclists and more – came together to defeat this misleading measure. It is also good news to hand AIDS Healthcare Foundation Michael Weinstein yet another defeat, after his opposition to Metro's Measure M and his wrongheaded state propositions 60 and 61.

Lastly, the quarter-cent sales tax for countywide homeless services Measure H squeaked through to victory. Measure H needed a two-thirds super majority, and current votes are tallied at 67.44 percent. Los Angeles has once again bucked the California taxpayers revolt narrative, proving that its residents are willing to tax themselves to solve huge city issues including housing and transportation and education.

Argonaut

Low Turnout, Big Margins

By Gary Walker

With only about 11.3% of registered voters going to the trouble of casting a ballot by mail or at the polls on Tuesday, the Los Angeles County electorate didn't exactly rock the vote.

But give us credit for being decisive.

Those who did vote chose to adopt or reject ballot measures by very wide margins, city government incumbents coasted to re-election, and two of four candidates seeking the Westside's LAUSD board seat are headed to a runoff with significant showings of support.

The only squeaker concerning Westside voters was Los Angeles County Measure H — not because voters were split, but because it required a two-thirds supermajority. The quarter-cent sales tax to generate \$350 million annually for homeless services picked up steam late in the game and appears to have passed with 67.44% of the vote, 379,005 yes votes to 182,969 against.

Los Angeles City Measure S, which would have imposed a two-year moratorium on large-scale development projects seeking General Plan or zoning changes, went down in flames. As of Wednesday, Measure S had racked up only 31.15% voter support, with 77,748 in favor to 171,831 against.

A plan for L.A. city officials to regulate recreational marijuana cruised to victory with 79.36% support, while a competing plan drafted by business interests failed with 36.35%.

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti cruised to re-election with the biggest win of the night, defeating 10 dark horse candidates with a resounding 80.87% support, or 202,278 votes.

L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents Westside neighborhoods, easily overcame challenges by two Venice activists by winning more than enough votes to avoid a runoff. Bonin received 19,099 votes, or 69.99% support. Mark Ryavec, a longtime critic of city policies regarding the homeless, received 4,494 votes (16.47%); slow-growth advocate Robin Rudisill received 3,695 votes (13.54%).

Bonin's landslide victory is "an affirmation of the hard work that I've been doing on behalf of our neighborhoods," he said. "Voters judged me on my record and just didn't buy the narratives that the other candidates were writing. While I disagree with how they tried to characterize my work, I applaud Mark and Robin for standing up and debating the issues."

While LAUSD Board President Steve Zimmer came out well ahead of three challengers, he'll face a May 16 runoff with former LAUSD middle school teacher Nick Melvoin.

Zimmer finished with 47.49% support, or 28,186 votes. Melvoin received 18,532 votes (31.22%), Palisades Charter High

School board member Allison Holdorf Poinini received 8,551 votes (14.46%), and public relations specialist Gregory Martayan trailed with 4,056 votes (6.83%).

Lots of spending by political action committees not under candidates' control sought to characterize the race as a battle between charter schools and the teacher's union to tip the political balance of the LAUSD board.

"I'm very proud to see that our school family, after a very brutal race, chose a future of hope," Zimmer said. "The voters of District 4 rejected the politics of hate and failure pushed by the charter association and their allies and embraced a message of hope and inclusion. This was a very important message for our kids."

"This was a very vicious campaign, so I hope that we can get back to talking about the issues in the runoff," Melvoin said.

"We tried to run a campaign based on change and that rejected the stale arguments about charters and traditional schools and parents and teachers pitted against each other."

LA Times

It's hard to beat an incumbent—just look at LA's City Council races

By Seema Mehta

Incumbency and the political establishment once again reigned supreme in Los Angeles' City Council contests.

Six sitting councilmen eclipsed their rivals by margins as high as 54 points. A seventh — the most vulnerable — appeared to narrowly avoid a runoff, pending the count of some outstanding ballots.

And in the race for the sole open council seat, in a swath of the San Fernando Valley that is hostile to City Hall because of pent-up feelings of neglect, the two candidates who made it into the runoff are city insiders.

"This is a pretty good day for the political establishment in Los Angeles, and probably unexpectedly so," said Raphael J. Sonenshein, executive director of the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State L.A.

Sonenshein said the presence on the ballot of Measure S — designed to crack down on larger developments — could have stirred the races. But the "populist revolt" many expected to come out in support of the measure never materialized and it lost badly, Sonenshein said.

"Measure S had the potential to not just upset development policy in the city but put incumbents at risk. It didn't play out that way even though it was extremely well funded," he added. "City Hall kind of dodged a bullet."

Unseating a City Council incumbent is a tall order. Officeholders tend to have large financial advantages, the backing of key groups, such as labor, and the endorsements of prominent elected leaders, such as Mayor Eric Garcetti. The last time an incumbent was voted out was in 2003, and it took a prominent former Assembly speaker — Antonio Villaraigosa — to do it.

Councilman Gil Cedillo was the most vulnerable incumbent in Tuesday's election, facing an unusually strong challenge from bike activist Joe Bray-Ali.

At the incumbent's election night party at the Ebell Club in Highland Park, every updated round of vote tallies showed Cedillo losing ground in the 1st Council District. The bar had run dry, the food had all been eaten, the music stopped and Cedillo was huddling behind closed doors with advisors. Most of his supporters had left thinking he was probably headed into a runoff.

Shortly after midnight, the county registrar-recorder's website posted updated results showing that Cedillo had received 50.98% of the vote, with 100% of the precincts reporting — avoiding a runoff by just 129 votes.

The remaining supporters stormed the private room, circled Cedillo, started chanting "Si se puede! Si se puede!" and stomped on the wooden floors.

"We took advantage of our advantages — experience matters — and we had faith," Cedillo said.

The county registrar announced Wednesday afternoon that about 294,900 ballots — largely provisional and late mail ballots — still needed to be counted, as well as an unknown number of mail ballots that have been postmarked by Tuesday that the office receives by Friday. It's unknown how many of these ballots are from Cedillo's district. An update is scheduled for Friday.

Paul Mitchell, a voter data expert who has no stake in the race, said the uncounted ballots could force a runoff.

"It's going to be one we have to watch for the next three or four days as they count ballots," he said. "It will be a nail-biter." Cedillo's campaign pointed to its Tuesday night vote total as a reason for optimism.

"There are still a lot of votes left to be counted, but we feel good about how we performed with both vote-by-mail and election day voters," said Derek Humphrey, an advisor to Cedillo's campaign.

Bray-Ali countered that he was confident he and Cedillo would compete through the May election.

"As far as this campaign is concerned, the runoff election started yesterday," he said. "We continue to build coalitions for change and will make certain the votes are counted accurately and fairly."

Councilman Paul Koretz, the incumbent in the 5th Council District, was thought to be in jeopardy of a runoff because of a well-funded rival. He conceded that he "had some concerns" Tuesday night, before the results came in and he ended up winning 66% of the vote.

The other incumbent councilmen on the ballot had similarly large victories — Mitch O'Farrell with 60%, Curren Price with 63%, Mike Bonin with 70%, and Joe Buscaino with 74%. Councilman Bob Blumenfield was unopposed.

The lone open seat was in the 7th Council District, which covers part of the San Fernando Valley.

The area's elected councilman, Felipe Fuentes, resigned in September to become a lobbyist. Since then, City Council President Herb Wesson has represented the district.

Twenty candidates vied for the seat, all but guaranteeing that no one would gain a majority in the primary and win the seat outright. But the two candidates headed for the May 16 runoff are not outsiders railing against the system; rather, Monica Rodriguez and Karo Torossian are very much part of it.

Rodriguez served on the city's Board of Public Works and was endorsed by Garcetti. Torossian worked for Councilman Paul Krekorian as a policy advisor. Both received large campaign contributions and key endorsements.

Bill Burton, a Democratic strategist who did not work on this race, said it's not surprising that the candidates with the traditional campaigns rose to the top.

"The establishment is in power for a lot of reasons because often they know how to run races and put together good campaigns," Burton said. "In that area, the change candidates didn't run very compelling campaigns. I think this is a moment where outsiders can be very well positioned, but you've got to do the work."

MIC

LA County voter turnout was 11.45% on Tuesday. That won't cut it in Trump's America

By Zak Rice

Los Angeles County had an election Tuesday, less than two months after anti-Donald Trump protests galvanized the city. Only 11.45% of registered voters showed up.

According to the L.A. Times, the City of Angels set a record for the lowest voter turnout in a mayoral election in L.A. history. The previous record was 18%, set in 2009 when Antonio Villaraigosa ran for re-election:

These numbers should worry progressives. Donald Trump is president, and Republicans control the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Local elections have emerged as some of the few sites where left-leaning voters can advance their agenda. There's little hope for success — pending an all-out political revolution — if progressives don't vote.

Meanwhile, there are about 4.3 million registered voters in L.A. County. Roughly 492,000 of them voted on Tuesday. For comparison, up to 750,000 demonstrators flooded the streets of downtown L.A. — an area of less than six square miles — on Jan. 21 to protest Trump's election.

That means roughly a quarter-million more Angelenos protested in January than voted this week.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti casts his ballot in Tuesday's election. Source: Nick Ut/AP

On the surface, the stakes of Tuesday's election didn't seem that high. L.A. handily re-elected Mayor Eric Garcetti — who was projected to win in a landslide anyway — and there were no national or state seats on the ballot. But at a time when California is being touted as ground zero for the anti-Trump resistance, and local politicians have openly expressed their opposition to the president's agenda, the political makeup of its cities matters a lot.

Here's what was at stake: seven of L.A.'s 15 city council members were up for re-election. A hotly-debated ballot measure — Measure S — failed that could have dramatically slowed housing development in L.A., with potentially wide-ranging implications, including greater housing scarcity in what is already one of the least affordable rental markets in the U.S. And it should go without saying that city policies and demographic makeup can seriously impact how sympathetic local politicians and residents are to, for example, the plight of undocumented immigrants, or criminal justice reform. If what happened in L.A. this week is a preview of how progressives are going to show up in other upcoming local elections around the country, it's going to be a longer eight years than we could've imagined.

LA Times

Why LA City Hall is such a hot spot for film shoots

By David Ng

On a recent March morning, crowds of movie extras dressed in tuxedos and couture gowns huddled together against the chill on the steps of City Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Crews maneuvered New York City taxi cabs into place to transform Spring Street into a convincing movie simulacrum of the Big Apple's most glamorous fashion event — the Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Met Gala.

The rush hour commotion was for an exterior scene from "Ocean's Eight," Warner Bros.' all-female reboot of the popular caper franchise. The movie, set for release next year, features an elaborate heist at the Met Gala and was shot mostly on location in New York. But for at least one scene, City Hall's grand steps will stand in for the Upper East Side museum's glitzy fashion ritual.

City Hall has historically been a popular filming location and now hosts about 50 shoots a year, according to FilmLA, the nonprofit that oversees film permitting in the city and county. While studio productions like "Ocean's Eight" keep City Hall buzzing with filming activity, the landmark building is also drawing more productions from streaming services, including two series from Amazon and a Netflix feature movie.

"It's just a beautiful building," said Jason Kaplon, location manager on Amazon's "Goliath," the legal series starring Billy Bob Thornton as a washed-up L.A. attorney looking for redemption. "The show is about all these trials and so it made sense for us to shoot one of the most iconic buildings in downtown."

The series filmed throughout City Hall during the spring and summer of last year for its first season, which premiered in October. The crew shot the building at different angles, including aerial views of its distinctive tower and the footbridge that spans Main Street.

Amazon was back at City Hall in November to shoot scenes for the third season of its neo-noir detective series "Bosch," which is set to premiere next month.

Although the city is accommodating to crews, they have to work around the building's daily activity, said Paul Schreiber, supervising location manager for "Bosch." "City business still needs to occur and certain areas are more off limits than others."

But at the end of the day, "the payoff is great because it always looks great."

"There's hardly a week that goes by when there isn't filming here," said Mayor Eric Garcetti, whose offices are located on City Hall's third floor.

There's hardly a week that goes by when there isn't filming here. — Mayor Eric Garcetti

The bustling activity comes at a time when the L.A. region overall has experienced a boost in local production, with on-location shooting in the area rising more than 6% in 2016 from the prior year. At the same time, streaming companies are ramping up production on original series in a bid to own their shows instead of licensing content from studios.

"I love that these are people who are spending money on our main streets and in our backyards," said Garcetti. "It's also about strengthening our social fabric," since more crew members are able to shoot locally instead of out of state and can therefore spend less time away from their families, he said.

Netflix filmed scenes at City Hall in November for its Will Smith feature film "Bright." The movie, premiering in December, follows a pair of cops as they navigate through an alternate-universe L.A. populated by orcs, elves and other fantastical creatures.

Other major productions to shoot at City Hall in the last year include the upcoming Johnny Depp movie "Labyrinth," the CBS legal drama "Doubt" and the Fox series "Lethal Weapon."

Like most other city buildings, City Hall doesn't charge a fee for productions to shoot on the premises, according to FilmLA. But there are other related expenses such as permit fees and supervisory personnel fees that are assessed at cost.

Other perks include a vacant lot across Spring Street where crews can park trailers and other production vehicles.

Although the city doesn't reap much money from on-location shoots, it nevertheless makes shooting on city property relatively hassle-free as a way of encouraging local production, and thereby stimulating the overall economy.

The Art Deco City Hall, which dates to 1928, has made appearances in numerous movies and TV shows. It has been featured in "Chinatown" and "L.A. Confidential" as well as the TV series "Dragnet" and "Adventures of Superman."

More recently, City Hall put in appearances in "Hail, Caesar," "The Nice Guys" and "Gangster Squad."

As mayor, Garcetti has had a front-row seat to many of these productions and has even participated in some of them. He has called "action!" on the set of TNT's cop drama "Major Crimes," which has filmed several times in City Hall. He also had a cameo role in the TBS comedy "Angie Tribeca," which shot a scene outside his offices.

But Garcetti, who is a SAG-AFTRA member, didn't want to play himself in the spoof-comedy series. "I asked them, can I get out of being typecast?" Producers agreed, and Garcetti played a member of his own security detail.

Daily News

LA Election Results: Monica Rodriguez, Kaso Torossian headed to CD 7 runoff

By Elizabeth Chou

A City Council planning director and a former Public Works commissioner rose above a heap of 18 other candidates vying for an open seat representing Council District 7 in the northeast San Fernando Valley and will compete again in a May runoff election.

With all precincts reporting, Monica Rodriguez finished in the top spot with 3,966 votes for 29.56 percent of the total, and Kaso Torossian in second place with 2,341 votes and 17.45 percent.

Monica Ratliff, who is a Los Angeles Unified school District board member, finished third with 2,080 votes, 15.50 percent of the total.

Since no candidate received more than 50 percent of the votes, and if the current standings hold, Rodriguez and Torossian will square off in the May 16 runoff election.

The eventual winner of the Council District 7 election will represent one of the city's farthest-flung districts that features both suburban neighborhoods and rural communities near the Angeles National Forest. The district includes the communities of Sunland-Tujunga, Pacoima, Sylmar, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills and North Hills.

The 7th District race is being watched with interest due to the unusually high number of candidates who stepped up to run. The early departure in September of Felipe Fuentes, who stepped down to take a Sacramento lobbying job, prompted a flurry of interest from residents hoping to fill the open seat. Initially more than 30 people pulled fundraising papers to run, and ultimately 20 made the cut by turning in enough signatures and any necessary fees.

Major issues that have taken hold in the race include a proposed high-speed rail route through the district, homelessness, real estate development that may increase the density of neighborhoods, the lack of name-brand retail shops and stores in some parts of the district, and the availability of firefighting resources in areas that are affected by forest fires.

Rodriguez, a former Public Works commissioner who has held council aide seats for past council members, commanded the fundraising edge, taking in more than \$340,000 in contributions, while also benefiting from more than \$270,000 in outside spending on mailers and phone banking. She also boasts major endorsements, including from Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Also prominent and well-funded is City Council planning director Torossian, who raised more than \$231,000 in donations and was awarded \$77,000 in city matching funds. He was also endorsed by his boss, Councilman Paul Krekorian, and has long been active in San Fernando Valley-area Democratic Party organizations.

Los Angeles Unified School District board member Monica Ratliff is the third best-funded, with more than \$56,000 received.

Other candidates include stuntman Dale Gibson; ranch owner and Boys & Girls Club development director Nicole Chase; pub owner and engineer Arthur Miner; state Deputy Attorney General Venessa Martinez; community organizer and former council field deputy Olga Ayala; financial adviser and neighborhood council member Terrence Gomes; veterans advocate Fred Flores; equestrian center owner John T. Higginson; lender mortgage subservicer Constance Saunders; and public interest advocate Mike Schaefer.

Also in the race are actress and Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council President Krystee Clark; Sunland-Tujunga

Castillo; bookkeeper Bonnie Corwin; former Sylmar Neighborhood Council member Carlos Lara; and rancher and Realtor Mark Reed.

With all precincts reporting in the Council District 5 race, Councilman Paul Koretz won re-election with 15,084 votes or 65.70 percent of the votes against attorney Jesse Creed, who pulled in 7,036 votes for 30.65 percent, and Mark Matthew Herd who finished with 839 votes and 3.65 percent of the total.

Creed put up a strong fight, raising more than \$300,000 in contributions, coming close to Koretz's more than \$466,000 in funds.

In Council District 3, Councilman Bob Blumenfield ran unopposed and will serve a second term.

KPCC

Measure H: With funding in place, solving homelessness is now up to the politicians

By Rina Palta

With Tuesday's electoral victory, leaders in Los Angeles appear to have everything they need to tackle the area's growing homeless crisis over the next decade. Now the pressure is on to make good on their promises.

Measure H, a sales tax increase that could raise \$355 million annually for services for homeless currently has 67.44 percent of the vote, with some ballots still left to count. The special tax requires a 2/3 victory (or 66.67 percent) to pass. Well before Tuesday's election, the county started to put a structure and plan in place should the measure pass. If the election results hold, the Board of Supervisors will vote in June on how to spend the initial funds, and they'll begin spending them in July. The tax would expire in ten years.

Though cautiously awaiting final tallies, L.A. County leaders Wednesday were happy and relieved by Measure H's apparent victory.

"The voters have expressed their will over the past several years about this issue," said L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who donated a significant chunk of cash from his own campaign fund to advocate for the measure. "Now they've opened their hearts, they've opened their wallets."

Supervisor Janice Hahn, who wrote the motion to get Measure H on the ballot, said people are going to want to see results quickly.

"They're going to want to see more shelters open, they're going to want to see more people finding places to live, they're going to want to see more people being treated for drug addiction," she said, noting she won't be satisfied if homelessness doesn't start to go down next year.

If Measure H had not passed — or if remaining uncounted ballots are enough to derail its current lead — supervisors would have been faced with trying to find another way to fund their ambitious plans to significantly reduce homelessness. They may have been forced, Ridley-Thomas said, to take a new proposal to the voters in November, by which time the homeless problem could be worse.

"We just would have been faced with more daunting circumstances," Ridley-Thomas said.

Instead, the voters have apparently given leaders everything they've asked for. Proposition HHH, passed overwhelmingly by voters in the City of L.A. in November, was the first piece of the puzzle, providing \$1.2 billion in bond money to construct housing for formerly homeless. County and city leaders then rallied around Measure H, to provide services that get people into housing, keep them there, and prevent families and individuals on the brink from falling into homelessness.

On top of that, both city and county leaders came out in force against Proposition S, an anti-development measure they said would kill plans to build affordable housing and units for the homeless. Voters apparently heeded their warnings, overwhelmingly voting against that measure.

"Thank you to all the voters," said L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, who also won reelection Tuesday, appearing on KPCC's AirTalk Wednesday morning. "I'm hopeful this will not only help us address homelessness, but truly end it.

The pieces, it seems, are finally in place for L.A. to proceed.

For years, local officials have complained about a lack of resources to tackle the growing homeless crisis. A region-wide count in January 2016 found there were roughly 47,000 homeless in L.A. County, a 19 percent jump from 2013.

Ridley-Thomas said he and his colleagues are well aware the voters expect no more excuses when it comes to tackling homelessness.

"I think that's what the voters are saying," he said. "This is a huge amount of money to fight this problem in a way that we have never had before. It is our opportunity and our obligation to show results."

The measure promised to put 45,000 formerly homeless into permanent housing within five years.

Proof of whether or not local leaders make good on their promises, now that voters have given them the money they asked for, will be on L.A.'s streets, which thousands and thousands of people have turned into makeshift homes.

"This has been here for decades, it won't go away overnight," Garcetti said. "I think this is a five to ten year process, but you'll begin to see some results in the first few years."

KPCC's Take Two will tackle the details of what comes next, and how Measure H money could be spent on Thursday with guests Stephanie Klasky-Gamer from L.A. Family Housing and Andy Bales of the Union Rescue Mission. Tune in at 9 a.m.

Daily News

Homeless complain of being caught off guard by Sepulveda Dam Basin cleanup

By Wes Woods

City efforts to clear a debris-choked drainage channel in the Sepulveda Dam Basin and raze a homeless encampment in

the area began Wednesday morning in Encino, with several homeless people complaining that were being evicted without prior notification.

"This is all new to me ... They said 'you can get all of your stuff in 15 minutes,'" said Lance White, 27, who has lived in the area for about a year after losing his job.

"A total loss," added White, as he helped the mother of his children temporarily move her personal belongings from the basin to a golf course parking lot across the street.

Wednesday's operation came after plans for the cleanup were presented during a community meeting in Encino on Feb. 28.

The basin — which has a sizable homeless population — is in an environmentally sensitive area with an array of vegetation and about 250 species of birds. Los Angeles officials said workers would try to avoid damaging native flora and bird nests, while removing non-native plants and refuse.

They also said workers from the Mayor's Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement (HOPE) team, who regularly visit the site, would help those displaced get access to services.

Officials on Wednesday identified between 14 to 20 homeless camps — with at least 40 people living along the channel that runs along Burbank Boulevard from Balboa Boulevard east to Hayvenhurst Avenue.

George Kivork, a spokesman for Mayor Eric Garcetti, said he did not have an exact timeline for when the cleanup work would be completed.

"I think it all depends on what the volume of work is," Kivork said. "And the capacity of the work done to the satisfaction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

The basin is on federal land controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the city has an easement for the drainage channel.

As motorists drove eastbound on Burbank Boulevard along the basin Wednesday, they could use just one lane as members of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Bureau of Sanitation and other city agencies blocked the street with their vehicles during the large cleanup operation.

Despite other homeless in the area saying they had previously been visited by city employees, White said he was caught off guard by Wednesday's operation. He added that he would have to leave behind most of his belongings because he wasn't given enough time to prepare.

Dawanna Price, 23, the mother of White's three children complained that officials didn't offer enough help and wondered aloud why the homeless were being forced to leave.

"Since we came here, for a whole year the rats have went down," said Price, whose children stay with a family member.

"Because we clean up. It's not like we're sitting here partying ... and where do they expect folks to go? They don't care. They don't think to ask 'are you OK?'"

Homeless resident Lela Ramirez, 39, said she had been in the area for four years after living in an apartment in Canoga Park. Ramirez explained that she was a meth addict, and had lost guardianship of her nine children.

Unlike White and Price, Ramirez said she had received assistance from city officials for housing, and had business cards to prove it. Still, she said she was not sure where she would stay overnight. She added that a no trespassing sign was posted in the area about three days ago.

"Their main concern is getting us off the street," Ramirez said of city officials. "Which I understand but some people don't want to go."

When asked about White and Price's complaints, Kivork said teams had been going out to the area since September "almost every week."

"It's very clear, it was not something that started this morning," he said.

LA Sentinel

Harris-Dawson, Garcetti Announce Crime Prevention Initiative For South Los Angeles

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson recently joined Mayor Garcetti and the Los Angeles Police Department to announce a new partnership to combat violent crime. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will be made possible with generous support from the Ballmer Foundation, founded by Steve Ballmer (former Microsoft CEO and current owner of the Los Angeles Clippers), and the Weingart Foundation founded in 1951 by Ben and Stella Weingart.

The CSP project will be located at Jackie Tatum/Harvard Recreation Center, in a South Los Angeles neighborhood that has been devastated by homicides and violent crime. The CSP was pioneered in 2011 in five housing developments, including three in Watts, funded by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. CSP is now a nationally recognized model of relationship-based policing which has been proven effective in reducing violent crime. In contrast to traditional enforcement and suppression strategies, the CSP prioritizes building respect and trust between residents and the police. Police officers in the CSP are given 40 hours of training from the Urban Peace Institute, founded by noted police reform leader and civil rights activist Connie Rice.

Prior to the program launch, the Urban Peace Institute will conduct a three month program of outreach to complete an assessment of the particular causes of violent crime in the community. The assessment will then be used to tailor CSP strategies for the Harvard Park community. Strategies that have proven effective in previous programs CSP's have included youth programming, safe passages to schools, critical enforcement, and community affairs. The Harvard Recreation Center CSP is unique in that it will be the first such program created outside of housing developments.

"This community has agonized over violent crime and the loss of lives for too many years, and today I hope we mark a turning point," said Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. "The CSP approach has been a change maker in Watts and we will build a new phase of CSP at Harvard Recreation Center. The goal is first and foremost, saving lives. The

strategy toward that goal involves changing the relationship between community residents and the police that serve them. Our objective is to get this neighborhood fully engaged in creating the strategies to prevent crime, and implement those as a community united."

The origin of the Harvard Recreation Center CSP goes back to the summer of 2015, after a spike in homicides in the 8th Council District. In just two weeks in August 2015, L.A.P.D.'s South Bureau experienced 30 shootings, resulting in 15 deaths. In response, Councilmember Harris-Dawson authored a motion that requested the L.A.P.D., the City Attorney, the Mayor's office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and Los Angeles Fire Department to report on establishing a comprehensive response, including creating programs that build on the success of CSP for South Los Angeles.

In its initial years of operation in Watts, CSP produced a significant impact in the area: in addition to reducing violent crime by more than 50% in all three Watts housing developments, the number of arrests also declined by 50%. With a focus on community relationship training and collaboration, it is no longer an isolated tactic of a few officers, but an established practice endorsed by the highest ranks of LAPD. The objective to build direct relationships with community members towards the re-defined goal of community safety, security, and welfare – not solely crime reduction – is what differentiates CSP from traditional policing.

LA Business Journal

LA's Marijuana Measure M Passes

By Henry Meier

Angelenos Tuesday overwhelmingly voted to pass Measure M, the city ballot measure that implements a new licensing system and levies taxes on medical and recreational marijuana businesses.

The ballot initiative, which was backed by the Los Angeles City Council and a number of cannabis industry trade groups, won nearly 80 percent of the vote, according to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office.

Measure M was pitched as a way to align Los Angeles with the state's new pot laws, which go into effect Jan. 1, 2018. The initiatives passage was seen as a key step forward, because without a regulatory structure at the city level that affirmatively licenses pot shops - something L.A.'s current system lacks - all marijuana businesses would have become illegal when the state's laws came online. While Measure M does not establish a number of pot shops that would be allowed, it gives the City Council the power to do this.

The new law establishes a retail sales tax of 10 percent on recreational pot and 5 percent on medical. Measure M also taxes growers and other segments of the industry.

In other L.A. City election news, Mayor Eric Garcetti avoided a runoff, winning reelection with 81 percent of the vote.

Arts, Parks & River:

One of LA's earliest surviving neon signs will be relit near MacArthur Park

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/3/8/14859832/neon-sign-hotel-california-paseo-california>

One Of LA's Oldest Neon Signs Will Be Re Lit On Thursday

http://laist.com/2017/03/08/old_neon_sign.php

Economic Development:

Report Finds Big Downtown Growth In 2016

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/news/report-finds-big-downtown-growth-in/article_b815e2ae-039b-11e7-a3f2-1f109d9c5b1e.html

Mast Brothers Is Closing Its Massive Arts District Chocolate Factory

<http://www.lamag.com/digestblog/mast-brothers-closing-massive-arts-district-chocolate-factory/>

That was quick: Host Hotels buys W Hollywood Hotel for \$220M

<https://therealdeal.com/la/2017/03/08/that-was-quick-host-hotels-buys-w-hollywood-hotel-for-220m/>

Energy & Environment:

County leads joint political efforts to ban toxic chemical from refineries in Torrance and Wilmington

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/environment-and-nature/20170308/county-leads-join-political-efforts-to-ban-toxic-chemical-from-refineries-in-torrance-and-wilmington>

Health, Mental Health & Education:

What will the future of LA Unified look like? Two very different visions are battling it out

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-lausd-analysis-20170308-story.html>

What's behind all the big spending on the LA school board primary?

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/03/08/69712/what-s-behind-all-the-big-spending-on-the-la-school/>

LAUSD board President Steve Zimmer forced into runoff election

<http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20170308/lausd-board-president-steve-zimmer-forced-into-runoff-election>

Charter schools big fight forces LA board chief into runoff

<http://mynews1a.com/education/2017/03/08/charter-schools-big-fight-forces-la-board-chief-into-runoff/>

LA School Board President Steve Zimmer today on the high stakes of the election

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-essential-education-updates-southern-la-school-board-president-steve-1488960388-htmlstory.html>

Nick Melvoin '04 to compete in LAUSD runoff

<http://hwchronicle.com/nick-melvoin-04-to-compete-in-runoff-for-laUSD-board-position/>

Melvoin scores the Downton Abbey endorsement

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-essential-education-updates-southern-at-candidate-nick-melvoin-s-party-some-1488948419-htmlstory.html>

Homelessness & Poverty:

Measure H was approved-barely. Now LA will have billions of dollars to combat homelessness

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-measure-h-20170308-story.html>

LA County voters approve Measure H-here's how higher taxes will help the homeless

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/3/8/14855430/los-angeles-election-results-ballot-measure-h>

Some Measure H supporters remain cautious as late ballots are counted

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-measure-h-20170308-story.html>

Housing:

Flurry Of New Condos Set To Transform Los Angeles Skyline

<http://www.mansionglobal.com/articles/55448-flurry-of-new-condos-set-to-transform-los-angeles-skyline>

LA is the 4th worst city in the US for renters

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/3/8/14857716/los-angeles-rent-worst-city-cost-housing>

Planning & Land Use Management:

Nation's Second Largest City Makes Sound Decision To Build More Buildings

http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2017/03/08/measure_s_in_los_angeles_fails_in_a_blow_to_nimby_forces.html

Can We Cool It With The Ballot Box Planning Measures Already?

<http://la.streetsblog.org/2017/03/08/can-we-cool-it-with-the-ballot-box-planning-measures-already/>

Public Safety:

Kidnapping suspect is shot seconds after stabbing woman, LAPD says

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-kidnapping-pursuit-20170308-story.html>

Alleged carjacking kidnapper is shot by LAPD, female victim suffers stab wounds

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/2017/03/08/alleged-carjacking-kidnapper-is-shot-by-lapd-female-victim-suffers-stab-wounds>

Suspected Kidnapper Shot By Officers After Chase Ends In Crash

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/suspected-kidnapper-chase-Compton-415644303.html>

He's got a gun! Breathless cops shoot at armed suspect in foot chase

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/03/08/hes-got-a-gun-breathless-cops-shoot-at-armed-suspect-in-foot-chase/>

Seeking Justice: 15 Year Old Has Perfect Attendance Despite Mom's Unsolved Slaying

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/bus-stop-shooting-cold-case-Daughter-pleas-415733853.html>

Dramatic Surveillance Videos Show Robberies Amid Crime Spike In Downtown Los Angeles

<http://abc7.com/news/videos-show-robberies-amid-crime-spike-in-downtown-los-angeles/1790663/>

Victim fatally stabbed at Metro Purple Line station Koreatown identified

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/03/08/victim-fatally-stabbed-at-metro-purple-line-station-koreatown-identified/>

LAPD scour downtown Van Nuys area in search for Chase Bank robber

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170308/lapd-scour-downtown-van-nuys-area-in-search-for-chase-bank-robber>

Man boards Metro bus after being shot, wounded in Van Nuys

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170308/man-boards-metro-bus-after-being-shot-wounded-in-van-nuys>

\$50K Reward Offered To Help Find Mar Vista Mother's Murder Suspect

[http://abc7.com/news/\\$50k-offered-to-help-find-mar-vista-mothers-killer/1791797/](http://abc7.com/news/$50k-offered-to-help-find-mar-vista-mothers-killer/1791797/)

Mom's mystery beating death: \$50,000 reward if you help nab killer of Del Rey beautiful soul

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/03/08/moms-mystery-beating-death-50000-reward-if-you-help-nab-killer-of-del-rey-beautiful-soul/>

LAPD officer cleared of criminal wrongdoing in fatal Burbank shooting

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/03/07/lapd-officer-cleared-criminal-wrongdoing-fatal-burbank-shooting/>

Family of teen involved in Anaheim scuffle with off duty LAPD policeman files lawsuit

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/general-news/20170308/family-of-teen-involved-in-anaheim-scuffle-with-off-duty-lapd-policeman-files-lawsuit>

Teen's family files lawsuit against off duty LAPD officer involved in scuffle

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LAX:

Disturbance Over Cost Of \$12 Blanket Forces Hawaii Flight To Land At LAX

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Hawaii bound flight diverted to LAX after dispute over cost of blanket

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Metro:

Metro still accepting applications for Measure M oversight committee

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City of Los Angeles:

International Women's Day: Hundreds Hold Rally In Downtown LA

<http://abc7.com/news/international-womens-day-hundreds-hold-rally-in-dtla-/1791355/>

International Women's Day rallies bring sea of red to downtown LA

<http://www.dailynews.com/20170308/international-womens-day-rallies-bring-sea-of-red-to-downtown-la>

Hundreds gather in Downtown LA for International Women's Day rally

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/240401846-story>

County of Los Angeles:

LA County voter turnout was 11.45% on Tuesday. That won't cut it in Trump's America

<https://mic.com/articles/170604/la-county-voter-turnout-was-11-45-on-tuesday-that-won-t-cut-it-in-trump-s-america#.ZgARYnhg>

LA County sues California regulators, citing earthquake risk at SoCal Gas natural gas field

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170308/la-county-sues-california-regulators-citing-earthquake-risk-at-socalgas-natural-gas-field>



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED] Sat, Apr 22, 2017 at 4:54 AM
To: Carolyn comcast [REDACTED] Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED] Cecilia Cabello home
<[REDACTED]> Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita
<ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>,
Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kelly Jones <kelly.jones@lacity.org>, Kenneth Lee
<kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Lynette Amerian <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Ricardo Vasquez
<ricardo.vazquez@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>,
Vance <[REDACTED]>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Los Angeles's Mayor Sounds Off On Trump, Housing And More (LINK ONLY)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/21/us/california-today-los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti.html>

Garcetti proposes boosting spending to reduce LA traffic deaths but advocates are pushing more more

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-garcetti-budget-20170421-story.html>

Next stop for LA Metro: A committee focusing on what it's like to be a rider

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-metro-rider-committee-20170420-story.html>

LA City Hall braces for retirement wave

<http://www.scrp.org/news/2017/04/21/71004/la-city-hall-braces-for-retirement-wave/>

Los Angeles State Historic Park: Here's a preview of DTLA's grassy new backyard

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/4/21/15389464/los-angeles-state-historic-park-cornfield-open>

Return To Eden: How LA State Historic Park Came To Be

http://laist.com/2017/04/21/la_state_historic_park_2.php#photo-1

The Positive Actions New Restaurants Can Take In Gentrifying Neighborhoods

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/the-migrant-kitchen/the-positive-actions-new-restaurants-can-take-in-gentrifying-neighborhoods>

Doing it his way

<https://therealdeal.com/la/2017/04/21/doing-it-his-way/>

Los Angeles takes important steps to strengthen its fight against indigence

<https://laopinion.com/2017/04/21/los-angeles-toma-importantes-medidas-para-fortalecer-su-lucha-contra-la-indigencia/>

LA Times

Garcetti proposes boosting spending to reduce LA traffic deaths but advocates are pushing more more

By David Zahniser & Laura Nelson

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti secured one of his biggest accomplishments last year with passage of Measure M, the sales tax hike slated to deliver \$120 billion for transportation projects over four decades.

That victory was achieved, in part, through the hard work of nonprofit groups and grass-roots activists who pushed for more investment in rail, buses and ways of making walking and bicycling safer. Now, some of those same advocates are voicing dismay over Garcetti's budget plan, saying it does too little to prevent traffic deaths.

Garcetti called this week for \$16.6 million to go to the city's Vision Zero initiative, which seeks to end traffic fatalities on city streets by 2025.

Mayoral aides say that's a dramatic increase from this year's allocation of \$3 million. But Jessica Meaney, who heads the transportation advocacy group Investing in Place, said the program will need twice as much money to begin seriously reducing the number of deaths on city streets.

"The promise of Measure M was to be able to get around the city with more options. But we need to make sure we can get around the city alive," said Meaney, who intends to press the council to put more money into Vision Zero.

City officials have been facing competing demands on how to divvy up what's expected to be an influx of state and local

transportation money. Safe-streets advocates are pushing hard for vision zero, noting that 260 people were killed in traffic collisions in 2016, an increase of almost 43% over the prior year.

Others have been pushing for the city to start repairing the its most deteriorated streets, which have been ignored since the 2008 recession. Those roads — with a ranking of D and F from engineers — are by far the most expensive to fix, costing up to \$500,000 for every mile of a street lane, city officials say.

Garcetti is seeking to spend \$34 million on such streets in the coming fiscal year, reconstructing more than 60 lane-miles, said Matt Szabo, the mayor's deputy chief of staff. That strategy would simultaneously address the need for repairs and street safety, he said.

The boulevards that receive repairs will be along the city's "high injury network" of dangerous streets, where 65% of pedestrian deaths occur. As those D and F streets are rebuilt, they will be upgraded with safety features planned under Vision Zero, such as enhanced crosswalks at intersections, Szabo said.

"The message [Garcetti's] intending to send with this proposal is that fixing our streets and making them safe are not exclusive of one another," Szabo said. "So we're increasing dramatically the budget for fixing our worst roads, and we're increasing fivefold the budget for Vision Zero."

Councilman Mike Bonin, a Garcetti ally who raised money for the Measure M campaign, disagrees with the mayor's approach on transportation spending. Filling potholes and reconstructing roads is not the strategy that will seriously reduce traffic deaths, said Bonin, who heads the council's Transportation Committee.

Bonin said he intends to rework the mayor's plan to send a greater share of transportation funds to Vision Zero.

"Our first year of Vision Zero was really, really underfunded, and the problem [of traffic deaths] actually got worse this year," he said. "So we really need to make a significant investment in this."

Vision Zero spells out an array of safety improvements, including painting more visible crosswalks and retiming traffic signals to give pedestrians more time to cross the street. More significant overhauls could include new medians and left-turn lanes or the removal of traffic lanes.

"To really reduce traffic fatalities, those physical improvements to change the street design are essential, and expensive," said Deborah Murphy, executive director of the pedestrian advocacy group Los Angeles Walks.

Murphy said she will press lawmakers to shift funds from the budget for D and F streets to Vision Zero. That issue has already divided some council members.

Bonin's committee voted 3 to 2 last month to recommend that three-fifths of Measure M's local funding go toward Vision Zero initiatives. Councilmen David Ryu and Paul Koretz dissented, saying a greater share of the funds should go to fixing D and F streets.

Some have pointed out that Measure M was specifically billed — both in mailers and on social media — as a way to fill potholes. Ryu, who favors Garcetti's transportation plan, said city leaders need to fulfill the commitment made during the Measure M campaign.

"It was very clear that constituents in my district overwhelmingly were asking for repairs of our streets," said Ryu, who represents neighborhoods from Silver Lake to Sherman Oaks. "I think it's very important that we rebuild trust, and the way you do that is by fulfilling those promises."

Even if Garcetti's budget is approved unchanged, the city will still have about 6,400 lane-miles of D and F streets, said Szabo, the mayoral aide.

The challenge for Vision Zero is similarly steep. The head of the city's Department of Transportation said last month it could take as much as \$80 million to achieve a 20% reduction in fatal and severe crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists.

Tamika Butler, executive director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, said the city could find other ways of securing more money for Vision Zero. One option, she said, would be to tap police and fire department funding.

"When you're looking at the important work these departments do, it's all about saving lives," Butler said. "Vision Zero is about saving lives, too."

LA Times

Next stop for LA Metro: A committee focusing on what it's like to be a rider

By Laura Nelson

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has seven committees of elected officials that debate issues as high-profile as rail construction budgets, and as obscure as the amount of water needed to wash 2,248 buses.

What doesn't exist is a panel that focuses on what it's like to take transit in Los Angeles County.

That will change this summer, with a new directive from Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who is also a Metro director. During his State of the City address Thursday, Garcetti announced the committee, saying taking Metro "shouldn't be a burden — it should be a convenience."

"Positively or negatively, every single thing Metro does affects the passenger experience," said Los Angeles City Councilman and Metro director Mike Bonin, who will run the group. "But it's not often the primary prism through which a decision is made."

Garcetti will begin his second term as Metro chair in July. The committee will start meeting after that. Here's what they may discuss:

Later this year, Metro will start receiving revenue from Measure M, a sales tax increase for transportation that county voters approved last year. The tax is expected to generate \$860 million in 2018, and more than \$120 billion over its first four decades.

More than half of that revenue is already earmarked for highway projects and new bus and rail lines that will dramatically

expand the size of the region's transit network.

An additional 27% of the revenue — or \$232 million, in 2018 — will go toward transit service, which could influence the number of buses and trains, and how often they run. An additional 2% will be spent on improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.

The committee could weigh in to make sure sure that county voters' multibillion-dollar investment is as user-friendly as possible, Bonin said.

More than three-quarters of Metro riders do not have access to a car. A key goal of the committee will be making transit service cleaner, safer and more reliable for those transit-dependent passengers.

Service complaints are one reason Metro ridership has fallen in recent years.

In a Metro survey of more than 2,000 former passengers, more than six in 10 respondents said they stopped taking transit because it was slow, infrequent, unreliable or difficult to access.

Twenty-nine percent stopped riding because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.

The committee will also focus on making transit feel more comfortable, including nudging cities to add more bus shelters (or upgrade the ones they already have) and to improve sidewalks and bike lanes near stations, Bonin said.

Attracting new customers

When it comes to commuting, driving still dominates Los Angeles County. More than four in five residents get to work in the car, while 7% take a bus or train, according to census data.

Metro chief executive Phil Washington has said he wants to triple the rate of transit riders. That ambitious goal will require attracting and retaining new customers at a much faster rate than the population grows.

Bonin said the committee will explore ways to boost ridership, noting that "there's still a lot that we don't know about why people with the option of using transit don't choose transit."

"I want it to be very much about feedback, and input," Bonin said. "I don't want that to mean people have to come down to MTA headquarters. I want to get creative about how we hear from people."

One idea, he said, would be to hold some meetings at rush hour at a transit station.

That strategy could address one common criticism of Metro's public process: Monthly meetings start at 9 a.m., and are always downtown, meaning many working people can't attend.

What do you think?

If you're a Metro rider, what improvements do you want to see during your commute?

If you don't take transit, why not? What would make you change your mind?

Explain in the comments section, or reach out to transportation reporter Laura Nelson on Twitter or via email.

KPCC

LA City Hall braces for retirement wave

By Andrew Bernstein

It's a statistic they've known for a while now, but it's inching ever closer: More than 40 percent of the city of L.A.'s 45,000 employees will become eligible for retirement by 2018.

The wave of retirement is mostly due to an aging workforce, something that's happening all across the country, said Dr. Fernando Guerra, who runs the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (and is a member of KPCC's Board of Trustees).

"We're seeing the tail end of the Baby Boomers," Guerra said, explaining that some of the city's retirement-eligible workers have been eligible for years but have continued working because they expect to live longer and need to save more money.

"The Great Recession and the cost of living forces many people who would want to retire but have to keep working to make sure that they have the right retirement or resources to keep their quality of life," he said.

City workers are retirement eligible when they reach age 55 and have 30 years on the job. But most employees don't retire when they hit the 30-year mark, said Raul Lemus, assistant general manager of the city's personnel department.

The city does not know how many of the 18,000+ city employees who will be eligible to retire in 2018 will do so, but officials are preparing nonetheless, and have been for several years.

In 2015, the city began to address potential labor shortages when the city council and Mayor Eric Garcetti set the goal of hiring 5,000 city employees by 2018.

In a statement, Garcetti's office called that "a goal we are ahead of schedule to meet." City leaders have considered expanding parental leave benefits to attract applicants. And each city department has created a "succession plan" to prepare for potential holes in the office.

"By rearranging the work, or by preparing their current staff to move up through the ranks, and what kind of outreach they may request the personnel department to conduct to fill the jobs they're projecting they'll need to fill in the future," Lemus said. "[We're] looking at different ways we can attract new blood into the city."

The city is using social media to find job seekers, and it's created a recruitment campaign, dubbed "Create the Future of L.A." to appeal to 20- and 30-somethings. Lemus said the city worked with a consultant to tailor a message to millennials, highlighting the impact of public service.

"We're letting people know that the work here, it's going to have meaning," he said. "There's going to be an impact on your community when you work for the city."

The city is also preparing to launch a pilot program to expand the applicant pool. Currently, job seekers must take the city's entrance exam at City Hall. The pilot program would allow them to test in more convenient locations, including online.

Guerra said the public sector can struggle to compete with the private sector on salary, especially in Los Angeles, with its higher cost of living. However, he said, city jobs come with generous pensions not offered by the private sector.

"If you have an employee that thinks long-term and understands that, that is a competitive advantage that the city of Los Angeles has," he said.

Curbed

Los Angeles State Historic Park: Here's a preview of DTLA's grassy new backyard

By Alissa Walker

For over three years, Angelenos have anxiously awaited the reopening of Los Angeles State Historic Park, an expansive 34-acre park in Chinatown, at the edge of Downtown. Tomorrow is the day—it will reopen even bigger, prettier, and grassier than before.

Although the parklands, which everyone will probably still call the Cornfield, were technically transferred into the hands of California State Parks in 2001, the park remained suspended in a kind of temporary limbo state for over a dozen years. In 2014, the park closed while a \$20 million renovation sculpted new paths, picnic areas, wetlands, and a stunning pedestrian walkway. Two permanent structures, a ranger station and a welcome center, with new, very handsome bathrooms, were also added.

The park will reopen April 22 with a full day of events starting at 10 a.m., including remarks from Mayor Eric Garcetti and Governor Jerry Brown, but we got to take a tour today—check out our video preview on Facebook.

As you enter the park from the south (just steps from the Chinatown Gold Line station), you'll encounter a lovely new entrance lined with historic cobblestones that date to the 1880s.

Some are in their original positions and others were discovered while excavating the park grounds. They made up the roads serving LA's first rail depot, which occupied this site until 1901.

The first thing you'll likely notice on what's forecasted to be a hot, sunny weekend is the lack of shade. There are plenty of trees planted in the park, including a charming public fruit orchard of citrus trees planted by Fallen Fruit, but they're still fairly small. The new structures provide some shelter, but, for now, it may be best to plan your visits to avoid the hottest hours of the day, at least in summer.

The two buildings were designed in-house by California State Parks and have nifty sustainability features. The concave roofs act like rainwater catchment systems, sending water over the edge to be collected into rock-covered cisterns in the ground that flow into a nearby arroyo. As Stephanie Campbell, a park and recreation specialist for California State Parks told Curbed, during the last storms, rain cascaded over the roof in waterfalls and turned the arroyo into a full-on creek.

For the best views—and to get the only true sense of how big this space is—climb the pedestrian walkway, which is situated over the former rail depot's roundhouse, located in the center of the park, to gaze at grassy knolls dotted with bright-orange poppies. This walkway doesn't connect to Broadway, which runs along the western side of the park, but it was designed in a way to anticipate this move when more funds are available.

On the programming side, expect fewer concerts and festivals in the park and more cultural events. The park's extensive outreach program—formed out of a stunning 65 community meetings—created a local park ambassadors group named the Promotoras. This team will shape the programming and educational events, including the interpretive history exhibitions about the site and the neighborhood that will open soon at the welcome center, according to Marissa Llanes of Community Nature Connection.

Perhaps the most exciting addition to the neighborhood is not yet installed—a restaurant will be landing in the park by June. It's being fabricated off-site right now using shipping containers. The restaurant will be located in the southern corner of the park and, yes, it will have drinks, so expect to be spending your summer evenings here in the beer garden, gazing at the Los Angeles skyline.

LAist

Return To Eden: How LA State Historic Park Came To Be

By Richard Bence

The transformation of a zeppelin-shaped plot of land that stretches from Chinatown to the L.A. River's edge started with a trickle back in 2001 when California State Parks bought the property to create a temporary park. Tomorrow, that trickle turns into an almighty flood when the Los Angeles State Historic Park makes its long-awaited debut.

Many will already know this tucked-away, 32-acre parcel of green space as "the Cornfield", so named for the stalks that grew from kernels dropped by passing rail cars. In 2005, when it officially became a State Park, artist Lauren Bon paid homage by sowing an on-site crop and calling it Not a Cornfield. A version of the park then opened in 2006, hosting various music festivals before the economic downturn put a wrench in the works and froze funds for three years.

But, according to Tom Carroll of Tom Explores LA, this park and its surroundings are the cradle that Los Angeles grew out of. Water has always played a starring role in the story of L.A. and nowhere more so than here, a strip of land next to where the Los Angeles and Arroyo Seco rivers meet at a geographical knickpoint at the end of the Santa Monica Mountains. Native American people bathed here for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived and decided to build a ditch, the *zanja madre*, to move water from the Los Angeles River to the center of the pueblo. There are still remnants of the "mother ditch" here today, connecting the park to a riparian past that became the blueprint for modern Los Angeles.

In the 1870's, L.A. passed a bond measure that gave this chunk of land to the Southern Pacific Railroad. When River Station—the city's first transcontinental railroad depot—opened in 1875, it catapulted L.A. from a frontier town to the second largest metropolis in the United States. Some historians refer to the station as the Ellis Island of Los Angeles. This is where transplants from the Midwest and the East, lured by boosterism at the turn of the century, first set foot on

Southern California soil. In 1902 the River Station switched to transporting freight instead of people; by 1992 the train yard had closed and morphed into a weed-strewn eyesore, reports Carroll.

Los Angeles State Historic Park has harnessed much of that early pioneering spirit; not least in the way park entities approach a project. "We decided to leave no stone unturned in our attempt to reach out and build a park with the community rather than for the community," says Sean Woods, the superintendent of California State Parks in Los Angeles, who has helmed the project since 2001.

"We want this park to be many firsts," says Woods. "For the opening festival we are making sure we have representation from as many of the cultural and ethnic groups in Los Angeles as we possibly can. That's the city's strength," adds Woods. To have a place that becomes a cultural gathering space where people can come together for a common purpose seems to chime with the times. "I think the park will take on a much deeper meaning rather than just a beautiful piece of land," says Woods.

The grand opening will not shy away from the immutable facts of history either. "It's really important for us to keep that at the forefront of what this park is about: a place in Los Angeles where we can tell the history of the city, warts and all, and really have a place of healing," explains Woods. "Why not have a place to talk about the Zoot Suit Riots, the Chinese Massacre, the eviction of the Mexicans from the Chavez Ravine, so we can learn from history and move forward?" he asks.

To create something beautiful for some of the most underserved communities in the heart of the nation's most park-poor city has always been at the core of the project's civic mission. For Woods, however, the park signifies a paradigm shift in terms of reaching out to urban communities to get them involved with public space. "Parks are not just places to run and recreate, they're the lungs of our planet. It's incumbent upon us to educate people to the full scope of the value of parks," says Woods.

To that end, subtle educational elements are embedded into the landscape and architecture of the site by using plant materials to tell the stories about California's botanical past and what we think of as L.A. vernacular. The citrus industry, for example, became the first to use advertising to promote the image of California as the land of opportunity and sunshine. The orange became the perfect symbol for the sun and the Golden State. And so the orange trees here today, planted by public art project *Fallen Fruit*, explore the social and political implications of the citrus boom. "By having interpreters we can educate you to the value of that and provide all these layers of experience," says Woods.

The park is divided in three zones. The first is a habitat zone, which will eventually connect to the L.A. River, filled with 3,000 plants (planted by community members). The second zone is the great lawn, which has a capacity of 15,000.

"There is no place in Los Angeles that has this quantity of open space," says Woods. A third zone focuses more on the cultural interpretive elements of the site. At its center, a crescent-shaped observation deck (with instagrammable views of the city's skyline) arcs around the footprint of the roundhouse, where, *Los Angeles Magazine* reports, locomotives were serviced when Southern Pacific's River Station stood there in the late 1800s. A natural amphitheater will ring the granite turntable that redirected locomotives. For the grand opening, this area will be transformed into a big fire pit with marshmallows and s'mores for the kids.

It's important for any launch to sustain interest after the pizzazz of the opening celebration fades away; the arrival of a shipping container restaurant called *Cargo* and an outdoor screening of *La La Land* in May will no doubt keep the crowds coming back. Meanwhile the *Annenberg Water Wheel Project*, which will enable the park to be fully supplied by L.A. River water, will also be breaking ground this year.

Best of all, the park is easily accessible by the Chinatown Gold Line station, a reminder that this is a dynamic moment for Los Angeles as it reinvents itself again by reclaiming its public transit past. Bold projects like Los Angeles State Historic Park demonstrate the might of grassroots activism. People from disenfranchised communities got together and formed a coalition to fight for environmental justice. "This is the beginning of a movement and there has to be many Los Angeles State Parks built all along the L.A. River," says Woods. "This is a success; let's build upon that success."

KCET

The Positive Actions New Restaurants Can Take In Gentrifying Neighborhoods

By Jean Trinh

It's undeniable that the Los Angeles restaurant scene is booming, so much so that it's sometimes hard keeping up with the slew of hot new restaurants opening in the next "up-and-coming" neighborhoods. There's a growing market for food, as well as an entrepreneurial drive that's galvanizing restaurateurs to open up shop in any way they can, including launching in neighborhoods with cheap rents that are at risk or in the midst of gentrification. But can restaurant owners do good for a neighborhood that's in transition and help lessen the negative effects that come with that change? As we discussed this complex issue with restaurant owners, urban planning scholars and experts, we found that it is possible — if they do it right.

Existing community members may view new eateries as a threat, as drivers of gentrification, because restaurants are a very visible symbol of that change. However, when you look at the big picture, they are the byproduct of a transformation that already started long ago.

Before we jump into how restaurateurs can positively contribute to communities, it's important to first understand the role they play in transitioning neighborhoods. Existing community members may view new eateries as a threat, as drivers of gentrification, because restaurants are a very visible symbol of that change. However, when you look at the big picture, they are the byproduct of a transformation that already started long ago, according to Maria Cabildo, a longtime affordable housing advocate who is currently running for a seat in Congress. "I don't think that restaurants in and of themselves drive gentrification," she says. "They're something that follows after there's already been some kind of shift in the rental

development at Antioch University, is on the same page as Cabildo. They are more like indicators that it has already happened, that the area can command higher rents, [and] that new people are moving in who have a need or desire for expensive coffee or toast," Haas says.

That doesn't mean that these restaurants don't play a role at all in the transformation of a community. Cabildo believes that they do contribute to establishing a new marketplace and creating a different brand for the neighborhood, but again they're not one of the driving factors of the transition. She points out that there are times when a merchant is ahead of its time, that their business ends up being unsuccessful operating in a commercial corridor because they're trying to attract a certain type of clientele in a marketplace that doesn't exist yet in the neighborhood.

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, an urban planning professor at UCLA, says she thinks it's unlikely that a restaurant will move into a neighborhood where nothing else is around, but rather is following other developments that are happening in the area. Loukaitou-Sideris, who is currently researching residential and commercial gentrification, is studying this in conjunction with how new transit stations affect communities. In her findings, she's noticed that gentrification happens most near transit stops, using the Metro Gold Line Chinatown station and Boyle Heights' Mariachi Plaza station as examples. Those are the areas where new residential and commercial developments are getting built, but don't quite fit in with the needs of the existing community.

Regardless of how strong of a role restaurants play in a transitioning community, they are still intertwined in the fabric of that neighborhood. In fitting in with an area that is in danger of displacement, merchants can bring about more positive changes and take proactive steps to help the community, like hiring locally, keeping prices affordable and really listening to the feedback of longtime residents.

When Cabildo was the president of East LA Community Corporation (ELACC), a nonprofit whose mission is advocating for economic and social justice in Boyle Heights and East L.A., the organization led the renovation of the historic Boyle Hotel landmark in Boyle Heights. It reopened in 2012 as a mixed-use development with affordable housing. ELACC cautiously went through a lengthy community engagement process to select La Monarca, a bakery chain that sells Mexican pastries and coffee, as the commercial tenant for Boyle Hotel. Cabildo says they wanted a business that really catered to the existing Boyle Heights residents, offering accessible price points and committing to hiring locally, which is what La Monarca did. ELACC members even took community residents out to visit La Monarca's other locations like in South Pasadena so they could get a feel for what the bakery was all about.

Cabildo feels La Monarca is fitting in nicely with the community. "You'll have people working at White Memorial Hospital, [which is a couple of blocks away from La Monarca], and people from the community going in and having a cup of coffee and some sweet bread," Cabildo says. "It's a great example of a business that is upscale but still caters to a local community and is accessible to them."

Longtime Boyle Heights resident Carlos Vasquez is a real estate agent who helped broker the lease deal with La Monarca. Even though La Monarca has nine locations throughout Southern California, Vasquez considers them to be local and not like chains. Vasquez says the cafe's owner had promised his wife, who's from Boyle Heights, that he would one day open a restaurant or cafe in the neighborhood. "They're very successful because they're catering to the needs of the community — the community that's already here," Vasquez says. "Even then, I see them as locals because the ownership is local."

In terms of culinary options for the neighborhood, Cabildo warns about making assumptions that everyone in the community is going to want Mexican food or sweet breads and coffee just because the residents of Boyle Heights are predominantly Latino. When ELACC surveyed the neighborhood, they found that there was a huge request for Chinese food in the area. "I think people are willing to try new things," she says.

Vasquez says if new restaurants do move into the neighborhood, he wants them to cater to the needs of the existing community, and also wants more parking in the area so that locals can actually be able to get to them. He doesn't want chain restaurants or hip bars to move in, and adds that not everyone wants a street taco. Vasquez uses existing restaurants like Un Solo Sol, Primera Taza Coffee House and La 1st Street Taqueria as examples of places that provide a service to the community by offering healthy alternatives to Latin cuisine and still having a "Mexican flair" to their food. He's also excited about a sports bar that is soon coming into the neighborhood and says, "It's pretty cool because we have somewhere to sit, somewhere to hang out."

On the other side of town in Mar Vista, things are changing for the community as well. As the tech industry is growing on the Westside in what's dubbed as "Silicon Beach" and housing is becoming unaffordable, residents are looking towards neighboring areas like Mar Vista. As a result, the neighborhood is transforming, and chef D. Brandon Walker, who opened his restaurant The Mar Vista on Venice Boulevard in January, is acutely aware of these changes and is listening to the community about its needs.

Walker has deep roots in the area. His restaurant partner and Co-Executive Chef Jill Davie, and his wife were both born and raised in the neighborhood. Walker and his wife own a house in the community and their three children have attended or are currently attending Mar Vista Elementary School. He says the neighborhood is very much still occupied by mom-and-pop businesses, but there is a change in the vibe as it's started to cater more to the young professionals moving in.

He says his restaurant is part of the transition that is happening in Mar Vista and notes that "we're probably at the forefront of that." Walker adds that The Mar Vista is one the first of its kind in the neighborhood, one that is chef-driven and serves farm-to-table, global-inspired dishes. He mentions some of the newer restaurants that have moved into Mar Vista over the last few years like Louie's of Mar Vista and Little Fatty (formerly Status Kuo). The local bowling alley, Bowlero, reopened with a modern makeover, and more surf and skate shops that weren't in the area 10 or 20 years ago are now calling Mar Vista home. For the most part, the shops and restaurants are still independently owned, but to Walker's dismay, a Starbucks moved onto Venice Boulevard in 2014. "It's just a different feel, a different look," Walker

says. I think it's catering to the new generation, the new population of the neighborhood.

In the two years leading up to The Mar Vista's opening, Walker and his partners attended city council meetings, went door-to-door talking to neighboring businesses and residents about their plans to move in and asked for their feedback. He went to local schools including Mar Vista Elementary to speak to teachers and parents about The Mar Vista. In the school's classrooms, he held cooking demos and presentations teaching children about vegetables and healthy eating. It was a way for the team to test the waters. "I think if we hadn't gotten such positive responses, there was a good chance we wouldn't have gone forward with it," Walker says.

Walker's passion for operating a restaurant that serves and benefits the surrounding community has led to his concerted efforts to make The Mar Vista easily accessible to locals. In conjunction with Mayor Eric Garcetti's Great Streets Initiative — a program that focuses on improving L.A. corridors, including a stretch of Mar Vista's Venice Boulevard — Walker has been involved in having bike racks installed in front of his restaurant. He hopes that they can get a crosswalk with blinking lights put in so people can safely cross the main street.

"We were super involved [with this program] and the community was very knowledgeable about what was going on and I think that led to the anticipation for [The Mar Vista's] opening," Walker says.

The Mar Vista may still be in its infancy stage, but Walker has more plans to keep contributing to the community. He's currently leveling a huge plot of land that runs along his restaurant's retaining wall in the back of the building. He plans on building raised beds along it and inviting the community for planting parties. Walker wants to bring kids from the local Mar Vista Elementary and Grand View Boulevard Elementary on field trips to visit and plant in the community garden.

Real Deal

Doing it his way

By Subrina Hudson

The Grove offers the same skewed perception of reality as Disneyland. At both, you'll find manicured landscaping and polished walkways, music playing from hidden speakers and a collection of jaunty buildings designed to block out views of the grit and congestion outside.

While it may not share the famous moniker of "Happiest Place on Earth," the open-air shopping center is a top tourist attraction that was carefully crafted by its very image-conscious owner, the real estate developer Rick Caruso, who is attempting to reshape his public persona after a series of setbacks and controversies.

Caruso, whose current portfolio consists of 13 developments with three — Palisades Village, Miramar Beach Resort and 333 La Cienega — currently under construction, is cleaning up the fallout from his very public failed bid for a shopping center in Carlsbad. The project faced vocal community opposition and a crushing defeat in the voting booth last year. Add to that the explosive L.A. Times story, published in December 2016, revealing that Caruso and many of his associates had donated massive sums to city officials, allegedly in an effort to win approvals for his projects. Whether or not that's true, the billionaire mogul does admit to his affinity for complex developments.

"I'm only focused on projects that are complicated from an entitlement standpoint," Caruso told The Real Deal. "I want high barriers to entry because the more complicated it is, the higher the likelihood is that there'll be less competition." Lewis Horne, CBRE's president of Southern California and Hawaii and a longtime friend of Caruso, said cutting through red tape is the hardest aspect of being a developer in L.A.

"The most complicated part is the entitlement process — your ability to get the approval from the community," Horne said. "Generally, people don't want a development. There's fighting by its nature."

Caruso, 58, is seen as a visionary for going against the traditional indoor mall-style retail development, instead creating open-air shopping centers with park-like spaces and up-and-coming retailers around paved walkways.

Before proposing one such open-air mall near the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad in May 2015, Caruso made attempts to win over community members.

Support from residents can allow a project to circumvent normal planning procedures, such as the costly California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, due to a loophole in a 2014 California Supreme Court ruling that allows the city to approve a project without a public vote or CEQA review if a citizens' initiative is successfully submitted.

Ballot-box planning in California is controversial. Historically, voters don't like to feel like they are being bought, as evidenced by Beny Alagem's failed \$7 million campaign to get voters to approve a 26-story condo tower last year in Beverly Hills. Even before Caruso embarked on the campaign to convince voters that his shopping center would improve Carlsbad, newspaper op-eds throughout San Diego County begged him to just give up.

He did not. His team mailed out flyers, ran television ads and even hired multiple political consulting firms.

Caruso's proposed San Diego County shopping center called for retail, restaurants and a movie theater across 27 acres, with the remaining 176 acres preserved for open space. However, a portion of the parkland would include a farm-to-table restaurant and an existing family-owned strawberry field.

Residents supporting the upscale mall submitted signatures to Carlsbad City Council, which unanimously approved the project instead of sending it to a public vote. The prize was nearly within Caruso's grasp.

But the opposition group Citizens for North County squeezed in a referendum, which forced a public vote on the project. The neighborhood group did not return requests for comment.

Over the next 12 months, the battle with the group led Caruso to spend \$12 million to rally support for the project, according to financial disclosure statements filed with the city.

Rival developer Westfield Corporation was keeping an eye on the fight. The mall operator owns several shopping centers in San Diego County and quickly entered the ring, donating \$75,000 to Citizens for North County, which spent a total of \$100,000.

Ultimately, voters shot down Caruso's measure A in a special election on February 23, 2016.

Caruso said afterward that he had taken the initiative route to prevent Westfield from following through on its threats to sue the firm under CEQA. The Australian company had previously blocked Caruso's proposed \$500 million project in Arcadia at the Santa Anita Park racetrack in 2011 using CEQA challenges.

Caruso had another reason to pursue the initiative route: If it had passed, he would have had more power over the project's land-use regulations, since the city would be unable to make any changes to the proposed project for 15 years. After the failed push in Carlsbad, Caruso explained what he felt went awry.

"What happened there is we didn't follow our formula," Caruso told *The Real Deal*. "It was an expensive and very painful reminder to stick to what works. We did a lot of things right, but we didn't do 100 percent of things right."

Shaking hands, kissing babies

The process of winning public support is the same nearly everywhere: A developer meets with city officials, holds meetings and coffee dates with local residents and mails out flyers before finally presenting the project for city approval. The impeccably polished and charming Caruso is adept at this.

But that song and dance didn't work in Carlsbad, nor did it work more than 10 years ago in the small Bay Area suburb of Albany. In 2005, Caruso pitched a \$200 million waterfront development there similar to the Carlsbad plan. He eventually quashed the project in 2006 because city officials would not guarantee that the firm's development application could avoid a public vote if it cleared the initial hurdle of winning City Council approval. The site of the proposed development would have to be rezoned, and local law called for voter approval on projects requiring rezoning.

Many of the Caruso projects that have successfully moved forward were first met with dissension. Opponents point to Caruso's numerous campaign contributions to local officials as evidence of his efforts to stack the deck against grass-roots opposition. Media reports have only reinforced that viewpoint.

Los Angeles City Ethics Commission filings revealed in the *L.A. Times*' December 2016 piece showed that Caruso, his family and his employees collectively donated nearly half a million dollars to city officials in the last five years. More often than not, greasing squeaky wheels with a bit of cash seems to have paid off for Caruso.

Salud Carbajal, now a congressman, was one of four Santa Barbara County supervisors to approve Caruso's Miramar Beach Resort project in Montecito in 2015. Caruso and his wife, Tina, donated \$15,000 in 2011 for Carbajal's reelection campaign for supervisor and \$10,800 to his 2016 congressional campaign, according to the *Santa Barbara Independent*. In L.A., the board of the Westbury Terrace condominium, located across the street from 333 La Cienega, Caruso's 16-story luxury residential tower, petitioned the neighborhood council over the building's initial proposed height of 20 stories, saying it would increase traffic and block views. Once Caruso promised to make \$500,000 worth of improvements to Westbury's building, many petitioners reversed their complaint.

It's a move that might be viewed as deceptive, but many in the industry say that this brand of backscratching is just part of doing business.

Eric Sussman, professor at the UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate, said any developer would stress the importance of having a relationship with local council members.

"I think anyone who has half a cerebrum understands money is important to politics," Sussman said. "[Caruso] is very political. He's savvy [but] that landscape is changing as well."

Sussman says that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's recent ban on planning commissioners meeting privately or communicating directly with developers regarding their plans could be in direct response to tactics employed by developers such as Caruso and Westfield. He added that it could impact the sustainability of Caruso's strategy. But not every project is met with community pushback and tension.

Take, for example, Caruso's Pacific Palisades project, Palisades Village: The 116,000-square-foot project has been met with support from the city and neighborhood groups. It's expected to open in 2018 and will include a movie theater, a grocery store, retail and restaurants.

David Kaplan, chair of the Village Project Land Use Committee, said Caruso and his team met with community leaders and residents several times to answer questions and present information on the project.

"He's capable of having conversations with people and not becoming defensive, as many developers will, when they're presented with people who are saying, 'Well, not in my backyard,'" Kaplan said.

Caruso is an L.A. native who grew up in Beverly Hills. His father, Hank, got his start selling used cars and became a leading auto dealer by 35. But the elder Caruso and some associates were indicted for fraud, forgery and conspiracy in 1957. He initially pleaded not guilty but changed his plea at the behest of his attorney, who said he could avoid prison time if he copped to the charges, according to *Los Angeles Magazine*. He was ultimately sentenced to one year in L.A. County Jail and 10 years of probation. Eventually he was allowed to change his plea back to not guilty after fulfilling his probation, and the charges were dismissed.

By that time, Hank Caruso had already sloughed off the damage from the scandal, launching a highly profitable business in 1966 renting out cars for a dollar a day plus mileage costs. The company, Dollar Rent a Car, became one of the largest auto rental companies, competing with firms such as Hertz and Avis.

Rick Caruso has said in previous interviews that his father's jail time was not something the family discussed, especially since Caruso was only a toddler when the case made headlines.

The younger Caruso attended Harvard Prep and graduated from University of Southern California with honors in 1980. Real estate was always the career Caruso wanted for himself, but he put it aside, graduating from Pepperdine Law in 1983 and joining law firm Finley Kumble. The mogul admits that while his father initially pushed him to study law, it ultimately helped him become a better developer.

"There was a certain discipline and a decorum," he said of Finley Kumble. "They didn't care about my social life. They didn't care about anything other than working."

Caruso added that if he had gone the traditional route of working for a development firm fresh out of college, he wouldn't have taken the risks he takes now.

"I would've never been able to build the Grove," he said. "Because nobody was building outdoor properties. Everything had to be an indoor mall anchored by a JC Penney's or Sears. So a great gift for me was my dad saying, 'You're going to law school.'"

The elder Caruso did help get his son's development career off the ground. When Rick Caruso launched Caruso Affiliated in 1987, he purchased land and leased it back to his father's company to expand his own company's business.

But the fortunate son would ultimately forge his own path. One of his first projects as a developer was a mall called Burton Place.

Of all the projects he has done over the years, Caruso said, this was the one that taught him the most about being a developer in Los Angeles.

"It was sort of a bag of everything," he said. "I had to get a street vacated. I had to get a zone change. I had to move trees. I had to do everything, and I knew nothing."

The company only had two employees at the time: Caruso and his assistant.

Thirty years on, the company enjoys consistent growth at a time when many mall operators are scrambling to fill large vacancies left by those once all-important retailers that are now closing thousands of shops across the country.

Caruso told TRD that his company compared its sales growth to its publicly traded competitors' this year, and while most grew at 2.5 percent, Caruso's firm grew more than 7 percent last year. The developer said the company had 100 percent occupancy at its properties. TRD could not independently confirm Caruso's assertions about the company's performance.

"Our sales growth is up, every metric of us was up over the year," he said. "We're the only company that did that, but we're providing a different product."

And while Caruso has been pushing his firm to expand with additional properties, he has also attempted to pay his success forward in other ways.

The chief executive has been actively involved in his charitable foundation, which he launched in 1991. His work in that sector even caught the eye of Pope Francis. Caruso was awarded the papal honor known as Knight Commander in the Order of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great in January.

Caruso said it was an unexpected award and one that was humbling.

And he added that, as with his business, he is very careful about how the foundation spends its money.

"We want the money to make an impact," he said. "What I learned a long time ago is it's better to pick a small handful of things and support it forcefully than to spread it out and not make as much of an impact."

La Opinion

Los Angeles takes important steps to strengthen its fight against indigence

Construction of a homeless housing complex in eastern Hollywood began Thursday, just the day Mayor Eric Garcetti said, "We are not here to address the issue of indigence, or to control or reduce it-but To end the indigence once and for all . "

The residential complex, part of the PATH Metro Villas project, will eventually house 187 people. The homes will be on the upper floors, while the first floor will be used to provide job training, mental health services and other resources to residents .

Because of this, the homes of the PATH Metro Villas project have been identified as a model to follow.

However, this project had to cope with multiple obstacles. The most pressing was the cost.

So far, the project is being carried out with federal funding and federal tax credits. But President Donald Trump's budget plan aims to eliminate this support.

Being eliminated, they will have to raise funds in other ways, possibly through revenue generated by the HHH Proposal and Measure H . Approved by voters, they will provide more than \$ 1 million to help homeless people in the next ten years.

Even as of yesterday, nonprofits and places of worship in Los Angeles are authorized to offer shelter services 24 hours a day, every day of the year , without having to apply for a city permit.

Previously, emergency shelters only had the right to exist for four months a year, typically during the winter. But the city council decided to expand this rule to the whole year on Wednesday.

The City Council explained its decision by citing the LA Homeless Services Authority census, which indicates that 28,000 people in Los Angeles have nowhere to live.

There were only 9,230 beds available for homeless people, said Councilman Mike Bonin, which means that nearly 20,000 people sleep on the street every night.

City Council:

Endorsement: A persistent and effective advocate, Monica Rodriguez, for Council District 7

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/endorsements/la-ed-cd-7-endorsement-20170421-story.html>

Arts, Parks & River:

LA's Museum of Ice Cream: Where you'll get your next great selfie

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Enter The Museum of Ice Cream: A Sugar Fueled Instagram Friendly Haven

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Editorial: At the Los Angeles State Historic Park, a welcome sense of LA's past and needed whiff of fresh air

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Explore LA State Historic Park Ahead Of Its Grand Opening

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Grand Performance is back for another year of free shows in Downtown LA

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Vacant Westside senior housing could become boutique hotel

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Steven Spielberg, Jordan Peele attend grand opening of Universal CityWalk's multimillion dollar Universal Cinema

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Plans For Arts District Project With Striking Exterior Revealed

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Former Sherman Oaks principal says race played role in her demotion by LAUSD

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LAUSD to pilot an expanded dual language preschool program

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Wild ideas about how to end homelessness unveiled at USC event

<http://news.usc.edu/120396/wild-ideas-about-how-to-end-homelessness-unveiled-at-usc-event/>

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Condo values catching up to single family homes

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Scooter rider witnesses horrific crash, captures hit-and-run driver's license late number

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Lots of loot may be yours: LAPD shows off \$250K in stolen stuff

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Man Sought In Assault Outside Echo Park Bar That Left Two People Injured Last December

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Dozens Displaced Following Wilmington Apartment Fire

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Ruptured Water Main Creates Massive Geyser, Damages Vehicles In Mid City

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1300 DWP customers without power because of electrical vault explosion

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Underground Vault Explosion Evacuates Panorama City Homes

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Head of California's \$64 billion bullet train project is stepping down

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Lead Poisoning Higher Than Flint In Certain Parts Of LA County

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Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Sun, Apr 30, 2017 at 4:08 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Cecilia Cabello home
<[REDACTED]>, Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita
<ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>,
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<[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Vance <[REDACTED]>, Yeghig Keshishian
<yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

25 years after racial tensions erupted, black and Korean communities reflect on LA riots

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Black, Korean Communities Come Together At 25 Year LA Riots Anniversary

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Vigil Held To Mark 25th Anniversary Of 1992 Los Angeles Riots

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City leaders say much has changed, much to improve 25 years after LA riots

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/251656936-story>

Can we all just get along? Rodney King's question still matters

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Robin Coste Lewis named LA poet laureate

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Scientists document vanishing trees, greenery from LA area

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LA Times

25 years after racial tensions erupted, black and Korean communities reflect on LA riots

By Sarah Parvini and Victoria Kim

Jackie Broxton remembers the day the riots swept through her city, when the only way to get back to her car after church was to brave the flames and plumes of smoke that had engulfed the surrounding streets of South L.A.

She needed to get her daughter home to Ladera Heights, and for a moment she thought she would have to walk from the First African Methodist Episcopal Church down rubble-ridden West Adams Boulevard. Luckily, a fellow parishioner offered to drive her around the corner.

"You came out of church with a sense of hope, but you got outside and it was chaos," she said.

Broxton, 69, was among about 100 others who gathered across the street from the church at the Allen House gardens Saturday afternoon to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1992 riots. City officials and members of the African American and Korean communities gathered at the home of the oldest black congregation in L.A. to promote a single message: unity.

"If we don't find a way to work together, it could happen again," Broxton said.

Korean buk drums are played as the Rev. J. Edgar Boyd, right, of First AME Church waits to enter with his wife, Florence Miles-Boyd, and L.A. City Council President Herb Wesson, left. (Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times)

Leaders from both communities pledged to work together in what they described as a special day — the event marked the first time the two groups came together to commemorate the riots, said Laura Jeon, president of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles.

"Twenty-five years ago, Koreatown was in chaos, its buildings charred and its community in ruins," Jeon told the crowd. "If the Korean community and the African American community had been communicating back in 1992, the pain, agony,

The riots are considered the "greatest injury and tragedy to the Korean community" in the history of Korean immigration, she added.

The event was among many in a week recalling the riots, which left 63 people dead, another 2,000 people injured and roughly \$1 billion in property damage across the city.

The L.A. riots was not a black-Korean issue. It was a poverty issue; it was an issue of language barriers.— Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu

In an unscheduled moment Saturday at another event at a Koreatown church, Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu enthusiastically dragged a man by his arm up to the stage.

Ryu, the first Korean American to serve on the council, recounted how he and the man, Nathan Redfern, had worked together more than 20 years ago in the years following the riots. Ryu, then a fresh college graduate, and Redfern, a former Crips gang member, worked together at a Koreatown nonprofit's dispute resolution center.

Ryu recalled how the two men would go out to businesses in East and South L.A. to help resolve conflicts between Korean store owners and their customers, defusing the types of tense situations that led to the riots.

Later, they worked on a citizenship project, Ryu teaching classes in English as a second language and Redfern giving mock citizenship exams at the Korean American Coalition, the councilman said.

"We used to go out together, arm in arm," Ryu said at the event organized by the Korean Churches for Community Development. "The L.A. riots was not a black-Korean issue. It was a poverty issue; it was an issue of language barriers." The day's program included a joint choir performance of Korean, black and Latino groups singing "We Shall Overcome." Congressional candidate Robert Lee Ahn, former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and state Treasurer John Chiang — the latter two poised for the governor's race — also made an appearance.

On the afternoon of April 29, 1992, a jury in Ventura County acquitted four white Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King, a black motorist, after a high-speed pursuit. The incident, caught on amateur videotape, had sparked national debate about police brutality and racial injustice. The verdict stunned L.A., where angry crowds gathered on street corners across the city.

The flashpoint was a single intersection in South L.A. — Florence and Normandie avenues — but it was a scene eerily repeated in many parts of the city in the hours that followed.

Mayor Tom Bradley called a local state of emergency later that day, and Gov. Pete Wilson, at Bradley's request, ordered the National Guard to activate 2,000 reserve soldiers.

The riots had multiple causes beyond the not-guilty verdicts — including grinding poverty and hopelessness in South L.A., and a police force with a reputation for treating minorities poorly.

In some ways we are much better and stronger, more resilient. We're not cocky anymore; we know what our faults are.— Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

City officials who spoke at the First AME Church event Saturday lauded the progress Los Angeles institutions have made since 1992, including a more diverse police force and a City Council that is more representative of the city it serves.

"In some ways we are much better and stronger, more resilient," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti told the audience.

"We're not cocky anymore; we know what our faults are."

"We still have a long way to go," he added.

Still, he said, Los Angeles' progress in the last 25 years points to the city's resilience.

"We survive," Garcetti said. "We always do get through the most difficult of days."

Some at the commemoration acknowledged that the relationship between African Americans and Korean Americans in South L.A. has gotten better but still needs work.

Meanwhile, the Latino community keeps growing, forming the majority in most of the area's neighborhoods. Although there's black and Latino tension, diversity is a strength, they said.

The Rev. Barbara Brooks, associate minister at First AME Church, said remembering the civil unrest together serves as a vehicle to better relations and fight "complacency."

"It's like when you have a goal of losing 50 pounds, and when you reach your goal you say, 'OK, I don't have to do to do this anymore,' " Brooks said. "But to maintain what you've lost, you've got to do something different."

For the African American and Korean communities, Brooks said, that "something different" is teamwork.

Kieja Kim, president of the Victor Valley Korean American Assn., wasn't in Los Angeles during the riots, but she came Saturday to show solidarity and support.

"Community relationships are important," said Kim, 60. "We aren't different. Black, Korean, Asian — we're human."

As the event came to a close following afternoon prayers, the crowd made their way inside, where they sat down for that other common symbol of unity: breaking bread.

ABC Los Angeles

Black, Korean Communities Come Together At 25 Year LA Riots Anniversary

By Leanne Suter

Members of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church and Korean-American community came together on the 25-year anniversary of the L.A. riots as a symbol of progress and unity.

A service was held Saturday morning in West Adams with the church members and Korean-American Federation of Los Angeles.

During the 1992 Los Angeles riots, thousands of fires were set and hundreds of businesses - many owned by Korean-Americans - were looted. Officials estimated the Korean community suffered an estimated loss of \$400 million during the riots

But since then, the communities have worked together to repair the damage.

"We were without power. It was just horrible. But it was done. What can you do but move forward from that and hopefully we learned a lesson," one woman said during the service.

At the service, a bank also promised to fund jobs and business loans in the African-American community to promote a better future and partnership.

Many people said more still needs to be done to prevent a situation similar to the riots from happening again. Mayor Eric Garcetti, who was also in attendance, said the city has worked hard to be better.

"We have to remember that we should never destroy what's before us. We need to build, and I think that's what we've done for 25 years," he said.

ABC Los Angeles

Vigil Held To Mark 25th Anniversary Of 1992 Los Angeles Riots

By Amy Powell

Dozens of people raised their arms high during a candlelight vigil on the corner of Western Avenue and Adams Boulevard to mark the 25th anniversary of the Los Angeles riots.

On April 29, 1992, people rioted all over Los Angeles after the not guilty verdicts were read in the Rodney King beating case. During several days of civil unrest, more than 1,000 buildings were set on fire and 54 people died.

Residents and city leaders remembered the painful chapter in Los Angeles history.

"We have to mark history because of everything that led up to those days and what happened in those days," Mayor Eric Garcetti said.

L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and The Empowerment Congress brought city officials and community leaders together for a "teach-in" to examine lessons learned from the civil unrest.

ABC7 anchor Marc Brown served as moderator during the event.

Brown reported from South Los Angeles in 1992 as buildings burned, businesses were looted and people armed with guns swarmed the streets.

"Here you're watching building after building burn to the ground. No firefighters, no effort to fight it because they just couldn't. People were shooting at the firefighters," he said.

But even though there are still economic issues and other problems some said the community continues to show its resilience.

"Overall, when I look back at the 25 years, what I feel very proud about is the way the community led a lot of the rebuilding," Rep. Karen Bass said.

The event was one of many in recognition of the 25th anniversary.

Fox Los Angeles

City leaders say much has changed, much to improve 25 years after LA riots

The bell atop City Hall tolled 63 times, a solemn remembrance of the number of lives that were lost in the Los Angeles riots 25 years ago when sections of the city exploded into violence and mayhem.

As city leaders remembered the riots this week, ahead of Saturday's anniversary of the initial outbreak of violence, the message was consistent: Much has changed, and much work still needs to be done. "My thoughts every time this significant anniversary comes is, what's left to do. I think incontrovertibly, we are better off but we are not where we need to be," Mayor Eric Garcetti told City News Service. "We still have corners of this city that remain vacant and undeveloped, we still have double-digit unemployment in certain communities, and we still have the potential for violence or divide between the police and the community

because of one rouge cop or a mistake that's made. But I feel like our resilience pushes us through."

The City Hall bell tolled Friday as city employees filtered out into the streets for a "Hands Around City Hall" ceremony meant to convey racial and cultural harmony one block from where some of the violence erupted -- outside Parker Center, the former headquarters of the Los Angeles Police Department.

An angry crowd gathered outside the building the night of April 29, 1992, throwing rocks and setting fire to a parking kiosk before overturning a police car.

The anger was fueled by the acquittal that day of four LAPD police officers in the Lake View Terrace beating of motorist Rodney King, a confrontation that received worldwide publicity due to it being videotaped by a nearby resident and broadcast on the evening news.

As the tape was played and replayed by the media in the 14 months to follow, many who viewed it -- and certainly to many in the black community in South Los Angeles -- deemed the officers to be clearly guilty, caught red-handed brutalizing a helpless black man with their batons and feet.

But to 12 jurors in Simi Valley, the officers were innocent of wrongdoing and allowed to walk free.

The rage in the black community toward the LAPD was long-simmering and far from being limited to the Rodney King beating, dating back to well before the 1965 Watts riots, which were also fueled by allegations against the department of racism and brutality.

Within hours of the acquittals, fires were breaking out across the city and Reginald Denny, a white truck driver, was beaten mercilessly at the corner of Florence and Normandie avenues on live television. The LAPD was nowhere in sight, sending a message to anyone considering joining the lawlessness that it was open season and that the cops were not going to try to stop it.

are well-known, having been exhumed and turned over each time the calendar hits April 29.

Aside from the deaths, 2,000 people were injured and more than 1,000 buildings were destroyed by fires in violence that lasted for six days and resulted in the National Guard being called in to restore order.

LAPD Chief Daryl Gates, who had led the department since 1978, stepped down a few months after the riots and is widely viewed as the man most responsible for the mayhem, after bringing a military mentality to policing that left minority communities feeling brutalized.

Gates also was criticized for a slow response to the initial outbreak of violence and for pulling his officers from key areas where the unrest was starting, including Florence and Normandie, allowing the violence to spread.

"The LAPD in 1992 was very much of a military mindset. They were more functioning from the standpoint of an occupying army as opposed to the motto to protect and serve," Matt Johnson, president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, told City News Service.

Other changes came to the LAPD. Police chiefs were given term limits. The Office of the Inspector General was formed to audit investigations and conduct reviews of the disciplinary system. In the wake of the Rampart corruption scandal, the department entered a consent decree in 2000 under which the U.S. Department of Justice oversaw the LAPD for five years.

Perhaps most significantly, the department adopted a community policing approach, under which officers who patrol neighborhoods work closely with key organizations and community leaders to build trust and increase communication.

"I think that the core belief in the mission has changed in the police department -- that police officers now see themselves as people that build community and as people that are part of the community, as people that reflect the diversity of the community, where in 1992 and years prior I think those things were not always true," LAPD Chief Charlie Beck told CNS. Crime and unemployment have also plunged since the riots, but troubling signs still remain.

A new Loyola Marymount University poll found that six in 10 Angelenos think another riot is likely in the next five years, the highest that sentiment has been in 20 years. A UCLA study released this week found that neighborhoods in South L.A., Koreatown and Westlake have not seen economic improvements since the riots and in some cases have gotten worse.

Studies over the past few years have also found that L.A. is one of the least affordable major cities in the country, with rent prices that are sky-rocketing due to a housing shortage.

Fueling some of the belief about future riots is the increased focus nationwide on the shootings of black males by police since the killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014 led to days of civil unrest there and criticism of police forces being equipped with military-grade weaponry.

In Los Angeles, the weekly meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners features a group of activists who routinely express rage and hatred at the department over officer-involved shootings.

Beck was dismissive of the group and the suggestion they could represent a larger discontent with the LAPD among some residents.

"It's the same people though, 30 or 40 people," Beck said. "You are talking about a very small group of people who are at the Police Commission every single week. I don't know that I or any chief could ever satisfy them."

Johnson, who leads the civilian board that oversees the department, said he sees an LAPD always looking to improve.

"I think police departments generally do well on the 'to protect' part and they forget about the 'to serve' part. And I think our department today is much more dedicated to the serve part," he said. "It's almost not fair to compare today to where the department was 25 years ago. This is a totally different department, not to say that there isn't work to be done and improvements to be made."

Garcetti said the city and LAPD are always on the hunt to improve tactics and pointed to the recently approved policy by the Police Commission that gives a new priority for de-escalation techniques as proof.

"Policing is a tough business, we ask them to put themselves in violent and difficult situations, and any large organization won't have 100 percent of people who do it perfectly," Garcetti said. "With that said, Los Angeles never rests on its laurels, and for the people who are unhappy about the present, they should be joining up to work on the future, which I think they are."

Daily Breeze

Can we all just get along? Rodney King's question still matters

By Thersa Walker

Rodney Glen King's plea for peace echoes from his resting place at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills. It's written on his grave marker: "Can we all get along."

There is no question mark, as there seemed to be in King's anguished voice 25 years ago.

But perhaps there should be. Uncertainty remains over whether or not we can all get along well enough to avoid the kind of violence that prompted King to stammer those words.

Whether called a riot, a rebellion or the neutral "civil unrest," the troublesome thought remains: Could it happen here again?

Central to whatever the answer might be is the issue of race and policing — the same as when Watts exploded in 1965 and then in 1992, with south Los Angeles again the epicenter of violence that spread to other parts of Southern California. Social conditions that served as kindling two-and-a-half decades ago — economic inequality, high unemployment, injustice — continue to fester in poor black and Latino communities.

Nationally, our mood is tense following an election that either divided us or revealed our division, and the introduction of federal policies that figure to widen disagreements along ethnic and class lines. Locally, pessimism is taking hold

they've been in 20 years when asked about the prospects of another violent convulsion. Researchers found that about 60 percent of a cross-section of Angelenos believe a civil disturbance could happen again sometime in the next five years. LMU's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, or StudyLA, began taking the survey at five-year intervals after 1992.

Young adults 18 to 29 were even more convinced another riot is looming, with seven out of 10 expecting one in the near future.

The survey also found a lingering chasm in how residents perceive the Los Angeles Police Department, with white and Asian American respondents more likely to view the police in positive terms than African-Americans and Latinos.

That's not much different from how things were leading up to April 29, 1992.

For decades before Rodney King became a household name, African-Americans and Latinos viewed the department's officers as an occupying military force in their neighborhoods, rather than public servants there to protect and to serve. Race was a flashpoint issue for much of the 1980s and early '90s, fueled by drug and gang epidemics, high crime rates and unchecked police discrimination and brutality.

Then came the beating of King in March 1991, following a police car chase. King, forever labeled "a black motorist" in news accounts of the chase, later acknowledged that he had been drinking. He was on parole and feared a return to state prison.

Millions of people who saw his videotaped beating were outraged. African-Americans had long complained of police brutality. With the video, everyone witnessed it.

The black community in Los Angeles was further injured that same month by the death of 15-year-old Latasha Harlins, shot in the back of the head by a Korean merchant who later that year was convicted of voluntary manslaughter but served no prison time.

When an all-white jury in Simi Valley acquitted the four police officers on trial in the King beating, outrage turned to violence.

King spoke his unforgettable words at a televised news conference May 1, 1992, hoping to stop the deadly unrest. By the time peace was restored, after six days of upheaval, at least 55 people had been killed, the injured exceeded 2,000, and upwards of 11,000 people were arrested.

Property damage was estimated at \$1 billion, with Korean merchants suffering heavy losses. Many never returned to their Los Angeles-area businesses.

Raphael Sonenshein, executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State Los Angeles, is reluctant to predict the future. But he believes both the LAPD and race relations in Southern California have improved since 1992.

"It doesn't go from horrible to perfect, but we've evolved with some really promising things," said Sonenshein, a political science professor. "It's taken quite a while to get to this point."

Those who see progress look beyond the police department's various scandals and setbacks under a succession of seven police chiefs since the June 1992 departure of former Chief Daryl F. Gates, who many blame for letting the violence spin out of control after the verdicts in the King beating trial.

"There's no question the LAPD has moved far beyond the basically occupying army metaphor and has become, not without its problems, more of a normal police department," Sonenshein said. "(It) has a closer relationship to the community."

With reforms approved by voters in the summer of 1992, increased emphasis on community policing, better accountability to elected officials, stronger civilian police commission oversight and more diversity in its ranks, the LAPD is not the same under current Chief Charlie Beck as it was under Gates.

But LAPD continues to face fierce criticism over police encounters that led to the deaths of young black and Latino residents in recent years, most notably that of Ezell Ford, a 25-year-old mentally ill man, three years ago, and last year Carnell Snell, 18, Daniel Perez, 16, and Keith Bursey, 31.

"There's a lot of conflict with activist groups," Sonenshein said. "Black Lives Matter is in a lot of conflict with the chief and the police department. But, again, when you compare it to when Gates was chief, it was open political warfare."

While their tactics appear to differ, efforts undertaken by public officials, civic and religious leaders, and grassroots organizations appear to be making a difference.

The LMU poll found that, overall, 76 percent of Angelenos said racial and ethnic groups are getting along; in the 1997 poll only 37 percent responded positively. Whether black, Latino, white, Asian Pacific Islander or other, respondents consistently viewed race relations today in a positive light.

If you ask Melina Abdullah, a co-founder of Black Lives Matter and chair of the Pan-African Studies Department at Cal State L.A., some things have changed for the better, but use of deadly police force is not one of them. It remains a problem in Los Angeles and around the country, she said.

"Think about what's happening now," said Abdullah, citing the uptick around the country in fatal police encounters, many caught on video, and the outrage of communities responding to one killing or another of young African-American males. And in most cases, Abdullah added, police officers are not convicted or even prosecuted.

"They are killing with complete impunity. Nothing is happening there. They are not being punished for what they are doing."

The death of Michael Brown during an altercation with a white police officer, who said Brown tried to take his gun, ignited protests that turned violent in Ferguson, Mo., and captured the attention of the nation.

Closer to home, the 2014 shooting death of Ford during a confrontation with Los Angeles police officers — whose actions were determined justified by the department because Ford allegedly grabbed for an officer's gun — sparked candlelight vigils, rallies and protests that included demonstrators blocking freeway lanes.

Black Lives Matter, a social movement that started as a Twitter hashtag in 2013 with the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin in Florida.

The organization has chapters around the world, building a following through social media and a democratic style of leadership. Their tactics are confrontational and disruptive, which Abdullah — who heads Black Lives Matter Los Angeles — feels is justified. She said pushback in the local black community is as strong as it was in 1992. But for now it's taking a more targeted approach.

"We didn't have freeway shutdowns and mall shutdowns and airport shutdowns in '92. We do now. Black Lives Matter is very thoughtful and intentional in what it is we're disrupting," she said. "We're disrupting the systems that oppress us. That's why you see us shut down the 101 or Christmas at The Grove. You don't see us shut down Christmas on Crenshaw."

That disruption also has included loud protests at city council and police commission meetings, and even a town hall meeting with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti organized by black church leaders last October. Just days earlier, Abdullah and two other Black Lives Matter leaders in Los Angeles were arrested during a protest at police headquarters over the shooting death of the teenage Snell.

Where Abdullah views Black Lives Matter as a positive force, others see division and a political agenda that they say may not always be in the best interest of beleaguered communities.

"I question Black Lives Matter," said retired LAPD Commander Bob Taylor, who in April 1992 was headquartered in Hollywood, assistant commanding officer of operations in the city's west bureau. He took a rock through his patrol car windshield.

"I don't see (BLM) protesting or doing any outreach in the community when a black life is extinguished through homicide or hit-and-run traffic. I don't see anyone from their group out there saying, 'This is a terrible thing. We have to stop the violence.'"

Taylor, 74, left the police department in 1993 to work in the USC campus police department. He later served as an ombudsman and chief probation officer for L.A. County before retiring in 2010. He spends much of his free time as a volunteer at the Los Angeles Police Museum.

From Taylor's perspective, LAPD had taken steps toward becoming more involved in the communities it patrolled under the concept of team policing in the late 1960s and early '70s. But then, as has historically been the case, he said, the department was undermanned when crime rates began to rise. Under Gates' leadership, the department abandoned team policing.

"Police officers were just chasing their tails," Taylor said. "We were so busy we didn't have time to engage in community functions. Most officers, including me, wanted to make sure we were able to bring crime down."

The violence that destroyed so many parts of Los Angeles in April and May of 1992 represents a sad time for the city and its police department, Taylor said. He believes that current relations between police and minority communities are, to some degree, better.

"In some areas," he said, "but not all."

Taylor attributes that in large part to the department's community policing strategy and the relationship-building efforts of individual officers.

"You have to personally engage in the community in order to get the community to buy in that you are not some kind of occupational force; that you are there for their interest," Taylor said.

Overall, respondents to the StudyLA survey deemed police more trustworthy than any other civic institution, including local government, the news media and religious institutions. But only 39 percent of the city's black residents said the same.

The department's own report last year on biased policing — requested by the Police Commission — found that complaints of racial profiling lodged against LAPD went 0 for 97 when investigated by LAPD in the first half of 2016. A survey also showed that 32 percent of black people disapproved of how LAPD officers did their job — about twice the rate of disapproval expressed by white residents.

Abdullah, who also sits on the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, believes that safe communities are created by what happens outside the realm of policing — jobs, after-school programs, mental health services, arts and culture programs.

"I hope we begin to learn that lesson and it doesn't take us another 25 years to come back and say, 'Well, what's changed?'"

To her, the greatest victory to celebrate is the empowerment of everyday people.

Abdullah points to the development of organizations like Community Coalition, founded in 1989 by now-Congresswoman Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, who was an emergency-room physicians assistant at the time. She also cites the late 1992 peace treaty negotiated by gang members in south Los Angeles.

"Communities," Abdullah said, "are really coming up with ideas about what makes them safer and freer and more just." There is also the historic and ongoing role of churches.

The Rev. Mark Whitlock, pastor of the growing Christ Our Redeemer African Methodist Episcopal Church in Irvine, said his life changed profoundly because of what happened on April 29, 1992. He thinks the same can happen for an entire community with the right commitment.

In 1992, Whitlock, now 62, was a member of the board of directors at First AME Church in south Los Angeles who worked as a vice president at Chicago Title Co. On the day of the King beating verdict, Whitlock was closing a multi-million dollar real estate deal. When verdicts were announced, he got a call to leave his business meeting and head to the AME church for a rally.

He became an ordained minister and was assigned to Christ Our Redeemer in 1998, where he has built a diverse congregation of more than 3,000 parishioners. He is also busy forging alliances with other churches across racial and ethnic lines, noting that Sunday remains the most segregated day of the week.

"We must tear down racial barriers within the church world," Whitlock said. "We as pastors must lead the charge to not only fully integrate the church but also help people to learn that we have more in common than in contrast." Whitlock points to a recent Sunday when he preached to the largely white and affluent congregation led by Rick Warren at Saddleback Church in Orange County. Previously, Whitlock and the pastor of Rock Harbor Church in Mission Viejo swapped pulpits.

"We may not be a stone's throw away from an incident," he said. "But we are not too far away in the future if the church does not do what we are called to do ... To teach how to love one another."

Los Angeles is not the only area in Southern California where civil unrest fueled by racial and economic disparities has left a community on edge. Anaheim, home to Disneyland and the Angels baseball team, experienced several weeks of turmoil in the summer of 2012 after a two-day span in which two young Latinos, Manuel Diaz and Joel Acevedo, were fatally shot by police.

The shootings, viewed as fatal examples of police brutality by family members and hundreds of supporters, took place in poor neighborhoods where gang activity is common. Rocks and bottles were thrown at police; store windows were smashed; trash bins were lit on fire.

But reforms later took hold. The conflict led to the creation of a civilian police-review board; an independent audit of Anaheim Police Department tactics and operations; and a switch from at-large to district voting for Anaheim city council members, a shift that better represents the city's ethnically diverse neighborhoods — the result of a lawsuit the city settled with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Cal State Long Beach professor Jose Moreno, who heads up the rights group Los Amigos, one of the city's oldest grassroots organizations, was elected to the Anaheim City Council in November 2016. He pushed for more diverse representation in a city that's about 53 percent Latino.

Moreno said the shootings of 2012 and the aftermath "woke up a lot of people" about the friction between police and some parts of the community.

"Relationships were not as deep as they thought," he said. "Social cohesion was not as strong as they thought."

Latinos in the city's poorer neighborhoods still feel marginalized, Moreno said. But ongoing relationship building may have helped keep protests relatively calm in February, after an off-duty Los Angeles police officer discharged his gun during a scuffle with a 13-year-old boy. Cellphone videos of the incident, which involved some Latino school children allegedly treading on the officer's lawn, quickly went viral.

That was a test of a relationship that is much stronger now, Moreno said. "But if that gunshot had hit the boy, that would have been maybe a whole different story."

Social media, which didn't exist in 1992, also plays a critical role in how people react to an incident, with the ability to either incite violence or defuse it. "Social media folks can remind each other, 'Hey, come out with a purpose, with passion, but come out with solidarity,'" Moreno said.

King's "Can we all get along" — which helped calm the Los Angeles unrest in '92 — predates viral dissemination. But work toward that goal continues to provide an answer.

Whitlock maintains his ties to First AME and remains close to the retired Murray, serving as executive director of the USC Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement, where he helps train other pastors in community engagement, civic development and financial literacy. He spent the past week at events in Los Angeles that included a panel discussion at USC about what happened 25 years ago.

Whitlock worries that the region could see a repeat of 1992. Tension and fear are swirling around the issues of immigration, deportations and travel bans, and the clashes that have already happened over disagreement about those issues.

"My fear is that it could happen again," Whitlock said.

"We have to be very careful about maligning any race. If you stereotype a group of people, then they will rebel and riot."

KPCC

Robin Coste Lewis named LA poet laureate

Compton native Robin Coste Lewis is the new poet laureate of Los Angeles.

Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the two-year appointment Thursday, calling Lewis a fearless writer. The post is intended to promote the city's diverse poetry and literary culture.

"The role of the L.A. Poet Laureate is two-fold: first, to celebrate and curate an ever-widening cross-city appreciation for poetry of all kinds, from all cultures and nations; second, to celebrate the rich and diverse history of Los Angeles poetry," Lewis said in a statement.

Coste Lewis is the author of the collection "Voyage of the Sable Venus," which won the National Book Award for poetry in 2015.

She will receive an annual grant of \$10,000 from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

The city's previous poet laureate, Luis Rodriguez, closed out his term at the end of 2016.

Daily News

Candidates debate to represent Los Angeles Council District 7

By Dana Bartholemew

They faced off Saturday as the two top candidates vying to represent a forgotten region of the San Fernando Valley left in the lurch by its former Los Angeles councilman. Both Monica Rodriguez and Karo Torossian vowed that, if elected, the northeast Valley would once again get its fair share of city services.

"I will be a warrior for this community," declared Rodriguez, dressed in a black pantsuit, through a muddled microphone. "I will fight for this community more than anyone who has (come) before."

"We are going to drive change," declared Torossian, dressed in a gray suit. "We are going to drive it from the ground up ... For too long, our community leaders have taken advantage of us."

The Los Angeles City Council District 7 Candidate Forum drew nearly 100 residents to the Vaughn G3 Academy in Pacoima for a morning debate between Rodriguez and Torossian, the top two candidates for the open seat left vacant by Councilman Felipe Fuentes.

The 75-minute forum, hosted by UCLA, the Pacoima Neighborhood Council, Valley Industry & Commerce Association and Telemundo 52, was moderated in English by news anchor Julio Vaqueiro.

Vaqueiro grilled each candidate on how each candidate would reduce homeless and improve transportation, community health and senior services, while attracting and retaining the jobs needed to uplift an underserved region.

The northeast Valley district seat was abandoned last fall by Fuentes, who quit before his term ended to become a lobbyist in Sacramento.

Since then, the foothill district communities of Sylmar, Pacoima, Mission Hills, North Hills, Lakeview Terrace, Sunland-Tujunga and Shadow Hills have been overseen by Council President Herb Wesson. Such communities along Interstate 5 and the 210 Freeway have suffered from redistricting, lax and inconsistent leadership. They follow an industrial corridor of rock quarries and garbage dumps historically occupied by minorities, fused with a rustic region of equestrian and hill dwellers.

Some 20 candidates had run for the open District 7 seat, of which Rodriguez and Torossian came out on top. Voters will choose among each candidate during a runoff election on May 16.

Rodriguez, 43, of Mission Hills, is a northeast Valley native with two decades of local government experience, including a recent stint as a commissioner on the city Board of Public Works.

The education and tech consultant has been endorsed by the Sierra Club, Mayor Eric Garcetti and city officials, as well as most city employee unions. She is a mother of two teens.

Torossian, 33, of Tujunga, is a Valley native with a background in public policy and planning who serves as the planning deputy for Councilman Paul Krekorian.

He has been endorsed by Councilman Paul Krekorian, Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian, Los Angeles Unified School District board member Monica Ratliff, who finished third in the race for the open seat, and other state officials, a national Armenian committee, as well as local Democratic, equestrian and community leaders. He is the father of two young children.

During the debate, both agreed for the need to issue a clarion call for a "fair share" of federal, state and local dollars to improve services in neighborhoods that lack sidewalks and economic development. They said the northeast Valley would need its fair share of potential 2024 Olympics improvements, such as holding equestrian events at Hansen Dam.

Both also promised to make their offices more accountable to those they serve, as well as develop more affordable homes and supportive housing for homeless residents.

Rodriguez stressed her coalition-building that stretched back to when she served former Mayor Richard Riordan to her recent service as public works commissioner.

"It's these kinds of collaborations that will make sure that our streets will be repaved and our sidewalks fixed," she said.

Torossian stressed his work as a planning deputy to create parks, sound walls and develop a future light rail system in the Valley.

"I will be a better voice for the community," he said. "We need to fix our sidewalks and fill our potholes, because that's what the community wants."

Both were critical of a Department of Transportation "Vision Zero" makeover of Van Nuys Boulevard, which reduced traffic lanes in an effort to reduce pedestrian fatalities — while creating massive traffic congestion.

While Torossian advocated a punch-card to better track homeless residents, Rodriguez was critical of adding more bureaucracy to the system.

And while Torossian said he would work to fight conversion of rent-control apartments into luxury housing and expand affordable housing opportunities, Rodriguez made the dig of the debate.

"It's interesting that my opponent, a planning deputy, has not built one additional unit of affordable housing in his district," Rodriguez said.

Residents later said they approved of the debate that covered a range of issues, but for the controversial bullet train, with a good showing by favored candidates.

"I'm a Karo fan," said Andrew Jackson, 37, of Tujunga, whose main concerns are active oil wells in his neighborhood. "He has a lot of hands-on experience, and talks like an engineer when ... he's giving us his action plan."

"I like Monica Rodriguez," said Nuria Gonzalez, 60, of Sylmar. "She speaks very good. She'll help the people of Pacoima. She wants to help the children find jobs."

KPCC

Scientists document vanishing trees, greenery from LA area

By Josie Huang

neighborhoods of the Los Angeles area declined significantly in the busy construction years leading up to the housing bust.

The researchers, who recently published their findings in the journal *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*, said they observed the link between larger building footprints and decreasing green cover across 20 communities of varying socioeconomic levels throughout Los Angeles County.

The amount of trees and greenery fell between 14 and 55 percent in the period 2000 to 2009 and some of the construction was not permitted, the study found.

Travis Longcore, assistant professor of architecture, spatial sciences, and biological sciences, said in some cases trees were disappearing because of mansionization, the building trend where smaller homes are replaced with structures disproportionately large to the size of the lot and neighboring properties.

Moreover, "there are a lot of situations where you're seeing an additional bathroom put on the back or a second dwelling unit that may or may not be permitted," Longcore said.

The researchers shied away from making policy recommendations, or commenting on how to balance green cover with much-needed housing production in the county. But Longcore differentiated between the types of construction that was removing greenery.

"You know, someone living in a garage out of financial necessity, and adding a room on the side is a different thing from tearing down a whole property and building lot line to lot line," Longcore said.

Los Angeles, Arcadia and other communities have tried to address mansionization by passing stricter regulations. Some have also embarked on tree-planting programs. In Los Angeles, for example, more than 18,000 trees were planted last year, according to Mayor Eric Garcetti's office.

The USC team studied the neighborhoods with the help of aerial imagery. Longcore said the study was prompted by concern about disappearing green cover, which scientists say is critical to maintaining the environmental health of a neighborhood. Trees, for instance, shade houses and keep air-conditioning costs down. Their root systems control storm runoff.

Researchers could tell a lot of the new construction was unpermitted by comparing what they saw in aerial shots with property records on file with the Los Angeles County assessor's office, Longcore said.

"There's a bunch of uncollected property taxes for properties that were not reassessed for being larger," Longcore said.

Asked about the unpermitted construction, a spokesman for the L.A. Department of Building and Safety said he could not provide a comment immediately.

City Council:

Impeach Trump! Wild protesters? No, it's official LA City Council committee

<http://mynews1a.com/government/2017/04/28/impeach-trump-wild-protesters-no-its-official-la-city-council-committee/>

Joe Bray-Ali Admits To Extramarital Affair And Unpaid Taxes, Vows To Continue Running For City Council Seat

http://laist.com/2017/04/29/joe_bray_ali_cheating_unpaid_taxes.php

Arts, Parks & River:

New Shepard Fairey mural looms large over Echo Park

<https://www.theeastsiderla.com/2017/04/new-shepard-fairey-mural-looms-large-over-echo-park/>

Explore The Arts District, Old Graveyards, And The Lummis House On Obscura Day

http://laist.com/2017/04/29/obscura_day_2017.php

5000 Turn Out For Street Food Cinema Season Premier In Downtown LA

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/04/29/street-food-cinema-la-la-land/>

Economic Development:

RIP Venice Freakshow

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/the-venice-beach-freakshow-is-closing-thanks-gentrification-8177492>

Entertainment & Facilities:

New MPAA Chief Charles Rivkin Brings Extensive Hollywood Credentials

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/new-mpaa-chief-charles-rivkin-brings-extensive-hollywood-credentials-998639>

Public Safety:

Man wounded in South LA shooting believed to be gang related

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170429/man-wounded-in-south-la-shooting-believed-to-be-gang-related>

Two men found shot to death in South Los Angeles

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/04/29/two-men-found-shot-to-death-in-south-los-angeles/>

City of Los Angeles:

Tech Meets Politics At Hackathon In Downtown Los Angeles

<http://abc7.com/politics/tech-meets-politics-at-hackathon-in-downtown-los-angeles/1933655/>

LA Riots:

Rally, March To Mark 25th Anniversary Of LA Riots

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/04/29/rally-25th-anniversary-la-riots/>

South LA rally, march marks 25 years since LA Riots rocked the nation

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170429/south-la-rally-march-mark-25-years-since-la-riots-rocked-the-nation>

South LA Marches To Commemorate 25th Anniversary Of 1992 Civil Unrest

http://laist.com/2017/04/29/photos_south_la_marches_to_commemor.php

We're gonna make it: Community rallies to mark 25th anniversary of LA riots

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-riots-rally-marches-20170428-story.html>

In his own words: Chief Charlie Beck on the riots, the LAPD and the future

<http://www.latimes.com/la-me-beck-riots-20170429-htm1story.html>

The 1992 Riots Changed Policing In LA, But Some Say Not Enough

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-1992-riots-changed-policing-in-l-a-but-some-say-not-enough-1493467200>

As gentrification pushed blacks out of a seaside enclave, some used the Rodney King verdicts as an excuse to push back

<http://www.latimes.com/local/abcarian/la-me-abcarian-riot-anniversary-20170430-story.html>

25 Years After The Riots, Economic Conditions In Many LA Neighborhoods Are Worse

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/la-poverty-and-unemployment-rates-have-increased-since-the-riots-8177518>

Editorial: Faith Leaders Reflections On Race, 25 Years After The LA Riots

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/editorial-faith-leaders-reflections-race-25-years-after-la-riots-n752636>

LAPD Officers, Students Learn From Each Other In 1992 LA Riots Inspired Program

<http://abc7.com/society/cops-students-learn-from-each-other-in-la-riots-inspired-program/1933917/>

Young LAPD officers barely remember 1992 riots, but work in a department shaped by the unrest

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-riots-young-cops-20170428-story.html>

As LA riots raged, she was shot before she was even born. Now 25, she embodies survival and resolve

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-lopez-king-evers-0430-story.html>

County of Los Angeles:

Responding to foster kids like Alex, LA County acts to protect educational stability

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/social-affairs/20170429/responding-to-foster-kids-like-alex-la-county-acts-to->

How many people are being shot? LA sheriff's watchdog decries lack of transparency

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sheriffs-transparency-20170429-story.html>



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Mon, May 1, 2017 at 4:05 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, Cecilia Cabello home <[REDACTED]>, Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kelly Jones <kelly.jones@lacity.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Lynette Amerian <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Omar Gonzales <omar.gonzales@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Ricardo Vasquez <ricardo.vazquez@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Vance <[REDACTED]>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Thousands expected in downtown LA for May day march

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/04/30/71377/thousands-expected-in-downtown-la-for-may-day-marc/>

Emboldened By Trump But Divided By Generations, Democrats Look To 2020 (LINK ONLY)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/30/us/politics/democrats-2020.html>

How Maxine Waters became Auntie Maxine in the age of Trump

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-maxine-waters-20170430-htlmlstory.html>

My turn: San Pedro leaders must step up and solve problems

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/government-and-politics/20170430/my-turn-san-pedro-leaders-must-step-up-and-solve-problems>

Sacramento Bets On Women To Help Lead The Tech Economy

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/giovannirodriguez/2017/04/30/sacramento-bets-on-women-to-help-lead-the-tech-economy/#3cabb7fb7de6>

KPCC

Thousands expected in downtown LA for May day march

There was the Women's March, the Tax Day March, the March for Science and the Peoples Climate March. Next up, advocates for immigrant rights and organized labor will hit the streets of Los Angeles for a May Day rally.

Organizers of the Resist Los Angeles march believe the event could draw as many as 100,000 demonstrators to downtown L.A. on Monday, May 1st, also known as International Workers' Day.

Last year's May Day march, held on a Sunday, drew far fewer people — somewhere between 2,000 and 10,000.

The 2017 march will be the first time since 2006 that all the city's May Day marches end at the same spot.

David Huerta, president of SEIU United Service Workers West, which represents janitors, security officers and other workers, tells KPCC, "We have a moment in time that we have to stand up and resist and respond to. We are a nation of immigrants. We are a nation of differences. In those differences, there's power. And right now, we need to come together and form that sense of unity in the resistance to the Trump agenda."

The protest, which was organized by a coalition of labor, immigrant-rights and faith-based groups, will start with a rally at 11 a.m. at MacArthur Park and end at City Hall.

Several local officials including mayor Eric Garcetti, state senator Kevin De Leon, and L.A. County supervisor Sheila Kuehl, are slated to speak at the event.

The march is expected to tie up traffic in downtown for several hours. Metro is adding trains to accommodate the expected influx of riders and police will be on maximum deployment Monday.

Union members have traditionally marched on May 1 to show their support for workers' rights. KPCC's Leslie Berestein Rojas explains: "In the United States, the annual events have become a rallying point for immigrants and their supporters since massive demonstrations in 2006 against a proposed immigration enforcement bill."

LA Times

How Maxine Waters became Auntie Maxine in the age of Trump

By Sarah Wire

Rep. Maxine Waters knows what "throwing shade" means now. She urges people to "stay woke."

In the past few months, young people have embraced 78-year-old Waters and her acerbic comments about President Trump, bringing the Los Angeles Democrat national fame in her 14th term, and a new nickname: Auntie Maxine.

It's unusual for elected officials to step outside of the box, Waters said in an interview. The millennials keep telling me for the most part they've never heard someone talk like that before."

Since refusing to attend Trump's inauguration, Waters, the longest-serving black woman in the House, has achieved icon-level status. Her image and quotes appear on T-shirts and posters. Twitter and Facebook are full of people rubbing their virtual hands in glee at what she might say next.

"When I grow up, I want to be @MaxineWaters. Thank you, Rep. Waters, for being unafraid to speak the truth," Crystal Webb, a young Twitter user, posted.

"On a different note, @MaxineWaters clap black game is sooooo strong!! #goals," said another.

"Anyone think Auntie @MaxineWaters is a hero?," asked another.

Young black activists in particular see a powerful and familiar figure in the impeccably dressed older woman expressing her opinion, even if it might be painfully honest, said Rashad Robinson, who leads the New York-based Color of Change, a progressive civil rights group.

"Maxine Waters has given us the viral videos to go along with our rants," Robinson said. "People are shaking their heads when she talks, and they are saying, 'Thank God someone said that.'"

"I think for many young black folks, they have that sort of auntie or matriarch in their family that sort of says it like it is," Robinson said.

The congresswoman's sudden popularity has led to interview after interview in the likes of Teen Vogue, Jet, Elle, Essence, Cosmopolitan and millennial-focused news sites like Mic and BuzzFeed, with headlines like, "Maxine Waters Is Back and She's Not Here to Play."

Southern Californians have long been familiar with Waters, who lives in the Vermont Knolls section of South Los Angeles and is not known for holding her tongue.

In 1994, she was gavelled off the House floor when she refused to stop loudly criticizing a Republican member she felt had badgered a female witness during a hearing. In 2011, she accused President Obama of neglecting black communities, then a week later, said the tea party could go "straight to hell."

"Nobody should be surprised about me," she said.

But her derision of Trump goes far beyond previous criticism of political foes, and the new, norm-breaking president has energized her in a way other Republicans she's opposed have not. In an age when the call from many on her side of the aisle is "Resistance," Waters has become a de facto leader of the charge.

She couldn't fathom Trump's rise during the election, she said, pointing to his insulting comments about former presidential rivals Carly Fiorina and Hillary Clinton, the lewd "Access Hollywood" video in which he bragged about grabbing women and his mocking imitation of a disabled reporter.

"I can't get it out of my head," she said. "I've never seen anybody as disgusting or as disrespectful as he is."

The attention began when Waters refused to go to the presidential inauguration. She also stayed away when Trump gave his first speech to Congress, telling the Los Angeles Times, "I don't honor this president. I don't respect this president."

And I'm not joyful in the presence of this president."

She has been saying she thinks Trump is headed for impeachment since even before he was sworn in. At an anti-Trump tax march in April, she said she'll "fight every day until he is impeached." She refers to his staff as the "Kremlin Klan" and has pushed for an independent investigation into Russian interference in the election and possible collusion by the Trump campaign.

Waters has made it clear she doesn't want to be in the same room with Trump, much less extend the courtesies commonly afforded the president, regardless of party. She has put politeness aside.

"Newsflash to Trump: Republicans control Washington. Russians control you," she tweeted in late April.

Waters has always been a target of conservative media, but the attacks have increased since she began in January to speak of impeachment. Last month, the far-right news magazine American Thinker called her unhinged and the "poster child for Trump Derangement Syndrome."

Now-ousted Fox News host Bill O'Reilly joked earlier this month that he was too distracted by her "James Brown wig" to hear her comments on the House floor about patriotism under Trump. He later apologized.

Waters responded on MSNBC: "Let me just say this: I'm a strong black woman, and I cannot be intimidated. I cannot be undermined. I cannot be thought to be afraid of Bill O'Reilly or anybody." Her comments quickly went viral.

Rep. Maxine Waters responds to Bill O'Reilly's comments about her hair.

The congresswoman says she's just being herself.

"Some people see me as a rabble-rouser. Some people see me as someone who does not care about what other people think about me. Some people see me as someone who makes other people look bad. ... I often get a feeling most people don't know who I am, or have a clue, and I live with that," Waters said. "I don't try to prove anything by talking."

Amid a black population that has receded in Los Angeles, Waters is one of the last powerful black politicians in Southern California and is known for her ability to rally South L.A. voters. Her endorsement has long been sought by seasoned and novice politicians alike, and she's played a leadership role in the national Democratic Party for decades. Jewett Walker, who ran the campaigns of several South Los Angeles politicians and is now a Baptist pastor at a church near the border of Waters' district, said he expects her endorsement to carry even more weight in 2018 because of the attention she's getting now.

"You don't walk up to Auntie Maxine and ask for an endorsement without having some really important things to say about what you hope to accomplish and what qualifies you to run at this time," Walker said. "When Maxine gets on board and the community realizes that she is supporting a particular candidate, that brings a lot of sway to a particular race, if everything else is equal."

Waters, the fifth of 13 children raised by a single mother in St. Louis, began working in factories and restaurants at age

10. After high school, she moved with her family to Southern California, where she began her career in public service as a teacher and a volunteer coordinator of the newly created Head Start program. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree at what is now Cal State L.A. and served as chief deputy for then-City Councilman David S. Cunningham.

She won her first election for a state Assembly seat in 1977, where she became long-time Speaker Willie Brown's right hand. Waters led the drive to force the state pension system to divest billions of dollars in shares of companies with business in South Africa. She also helped pass legislation ending police strip searches for nonviolent misdemeanors and sponsored legislation to create a state program to help keep children safe from sexual assault.

"In the state Legislature, she could get anything through, anything done," said Fernando Guerra, director of Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles. "Some people try to depict her as a left-wing bomb-thrower. She's also the ultimate insider, knowing how to move things."

Guerra said in South Los Angeles, Waters' endorsement remains second only to that of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Waters was elected to Congress in 1991. The following April, her district was besieged by riots triggered by the acquittal of four white police officers in the beating of Rodney King. She brought food and diapers to the area and said it wasn't right to characterize what happened as riots.

"I maintain it was somewhat understandable, if not acceptable. So I call it a rebellion," she said at the time.

Waters has been criticized because her daughter charged candidates a fee to appear on Waters' sample ballots — mailers she sends to hundreds of thousands of residents listing candidates she supports. She came under fire in 2009 when the House Ethics Committee investigated allegations she helped a bank in which her husband owned stock receive bailout money during the financial crisis. The committee unanimously decided Waters did not break any rules, clearing the way for her to become the top Democrat on the Financial Services Committee in 2013, a position she's held since.

Controversy has not hurt her standing in the district she's championed over the past four decades. She has consistently been reelected with more than 70% of the vote.

In the district, she's helped found organizations that promote black women and provide job training to young people in public housing. A technical and adult education center serving Watts bears her name.

A former chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Waters spent the 1990s calling for investigations into whether U.S. intelligence agencies contributed to the crack cocaine epidemic in Los Angeles, and helped create funding to treat the spread of HIV in minority communities.

She also helped write the Dodd-Frank act, which instituted broad new oversight of the banking industry after the 2008 market collapse.

Her time on the Financial Services Committee has given her the chance to work on homelessness, housing and poverty. Waters has said she often stops along skid row when she's at home, a consistent reminder of why she's in Congress.

"I've seen a lot of poverty — coming up as a young child, lost hopes and dreams and people that never had a chance to have a decent quality of life. I believe we can do a lot greater than that," Waters said.

Rep. Karen Bass, a Democrat who represents the district next door to Waters', isn't shocked her colleague's forthrightness seems to have made her a millennial darling.

"She's been consistent, and it's playing a very important role right now," said Bass, who met Waters when she organized marches in Los Angeles in the 1980s to oppose South African apartheid. "She's a fighter, and that's what people are looking for: the resistance. People want to see somebody fight."

Waters said they're just looking for someone who speaks honestly. "For them, it's quite refreshing," she said.

At a time when many progressives are looking for the next head of their movement, Waters said she's hoping to use the surge in attention to act as a magnet for the Democratic Party.

"I'm not their leader," she said. "I'm an enabler."

Daily Breeze

My turn: San Pedro leaders must step up and solve problems

By Kenneth Bezich

About a year ago I wrote a column about growing up in San Pedro in the 1940s and '50s. Things were much different then. During the period between World War II and the Korean War, people respected the government and law enforcement. I was a child during that time and my memories were of family, school and friends and how people were considerate of each other and their neighbor, and respected each other's rights.

There has been significant progress since that time, but with progress comes regression — and this is how San Pedro has changed over the years. The problems this community faces today were nonexistent back then.

Let me begin with crime. Today, the community is exposed to all facets of crime, including home invasion, automobile break-ins, gang activity that includes beatings and intimidation of some of our youth, unsolved murders and random shootings.

The criminals are more brazen now because the LAPD is undermanned in San Pedro. Thugs roam the streets in the late evening and early morning looking for their next victim. A new jail was built to house Harbor Area criminals but it's not open, so the police have to transport the criminals to a jail about 20 miles away. The police will respond to a crime if someone is injured, but if the crime is a theft or vandalism, the victim is asked to go to the police station to fill out a report. Besides crime, San Pedro has become a sanctuary for the homeless. The majority of homeless in San Pedro are not residents of this town. Homelessness affects every city but it seems that San Pedro has more than its share. As a result of this problem, downtown San Pedro is turning into a sium. This affects downtown business and the overall economy of the town.

Traffic is another problem that affects us. Many streets have been turned into bike lanes that share the road with

automobiles. Some of the streets that had multiple lanes now have one lane, which creates more congestion. Western Avenue is a joke now with traffic all day except maybe on Sunday morning.

The Highpark development across from Green Hills Memorial Park will add to our traffic woes by adding single-family homes, town houses and flats on 61.5 acres of land.

Another problem is the lack of street parking. Many motorists just double park, and in many cases leave their automobiles alone in the middle of the street with their hazard lights blinking.

There are many other problems, such as air pollution caused by some of the steamship companies on Terminal Island and the tank farm on North Gaffey Street, with its potential danger to residents if an explosion were to occur.

So how can the above problems be resolved or at least reduced? Our elected officials have not stepped up; San Pedro is the poor stepchild of Los Angeles and has been treated as such. Janice Hahn, who has held three different local political offices within the last decade, and our city councilman, Joe Buscaino, who is a former police officer, have done little to correct the above ills.

Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles is more interested in turning the city into a sanctuary city for illegal immigrants rather than focusing on the city's woes. These politicians need to focus on correcting these problems or face being replaced with others who will do the job.

Forbes

Sacramento Bets On Women To Help Lead The Tech Economy

By Giovanni Rodriguez

If you have been following this column, no doubt you will have heard what I call the "business argument for diversity." I've made that argument most often in the context of Latino entrepreneurship, paraphrasing Mitch Kapur, the Silicon Valley technologist-turned investor who has funded a number of Latino-led startups. Investing in Latino entrepreneurs is not just a nice thing to do. It's also a smart thing to do, because Latino entrepreneurs, as Mitch says, can help us "see around corners" in the new multicultural marketplace that others cannot see.

I thought about Mitch a couple of weeks ago when Remy Arteaga, a leader in entrepreneur education, wrote to tell me about a new accelerator for women entrepreneurs in Sacramento. As it turns out, I had already heard about the organization but had not quite figured out what to write. The accelerator, FourthWave, which originated in LA, is celebrating its first cohort in Sacramento tonight, and there are at least three things I'd like say.

The business case for women

First -- you guessed it -- is the business argument. In my talks with people who are inside the organization or close to it, the Mitch Kapur take on diversity might apply in this world as well. But it's not just about "seeing around corners" in new markets. The leaders of FourthWave point to research by the Kauffman Foundation that shows how "women-led private technology companies are more capital-efficient, achieve 35 percent higher return on investment, and, when venture-backed, bring in 12 percent higher revenue than male-owned tech companies," according to a writer for BusinessWeek. I've heard this before -- as well as other data -- and it's becoming part of a larger narrative about the positive impact that women entrepreneurs might have on the US economy. But the flip side of that narrative is that women entrepreneurs -- like Latino entrepreneurs -- are struggling to get the support they need, especially the early capital that's required to launch a new technology venture. According to a 2014 report by the National Women's Business Council, Male founders were more than three times as likely as female founders to access equity financing through angels or VCs (14.4% versus 3.6%). Men were also more likely than women to tap networks of close friends (9.2% versus 1.8%) and business acquaintances (13.5% versus 5.4%).

FourthWave aims to close the access-to-capital gap for women, just like organizations such as the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative -- an organization I've written about several times -- aim to close the gap for Latinos. It's a mission based on an opportunity/problem/solution analysis. There's opportunity, for sure, but there are a set of challenges that must first be addressed.

The business case for Sacramento

Yet there's a little bit more to FourthWave story. It actually began in 2014, in LA, where founder Nancy Perlman was working for Mayor Eric Garcetti. In partnership with the mayor's Tech Council, Perlman launched the first iteration of the accelerator called Elevate. Among several key items in the mission statement was the commitment to encourage other cities to adopt the idea of city-supported women's entrepreneurship. The first taker: Sacramento, where a number of women leaders in the tech and design community -- including Melanie Weir, Tracy Saville, and Cheryl Beninga -- were ready to swing into action.

From where I sit, this is interesting. As I have written before, Sacramento is emerging as new tech hub, in part because of the city's commitment -- and by that, I mean money and mentoring. FourthWave Sacramento is funded by a city grant, and is supported more broadly by a public/private ecosystem that's coming into place. The ecosystem is becoming more and more visible through the leadership of Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Barry Broome (CEO of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council). More important, the ecosystem is becoming visible through the leadership of women, including Maria MacGunigal (CIO for the city of Sacramento), Margaret McKenzie (advisory board member at Astia, a Silicon Valley non-profit), Gina Lujan (founder of Hacker Lab Sacramento), Kim Kaselionis (managing partner at Breakaway Funding), and Sheri Atwood, CEO of SupportPay, which has been one of the city's big technology case studies since it decided to move its operations in 2016 from the Bay Area to Sacramento. The ecosystem, I believe, has helped to identify an impressive first cohort of Sacramento-area women entrepreneurs with new companies in healthtech, edtech, and other verticals where Sacramento might in fact have a regional advantage for talent.

But Sacramento has something else going for it: as the capital of the nation's largest economy, it might influence other cities that are looking to reimagine themselves. With that in mind, I'll be looking for Sacramento to continue to lead the way in supporting women entrepreneurs.

power. FourthWave draws inspiration from other city-based accelerators like Boulder, Colorado's MergeLane. It's something that can probably happen throughout the US -- accelerating the economy with woman power, one city at a time. FourthWave and Sacramento are betting on that. Typically, I'm not a betting man. But I'm betting on woman power, too.

Arts, Parks & River:

OpEd: Refilling Silver Lake Reservoir is inexcusably wasteful. Better to live with empty pit

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/livable-city/la-oe-blackmore-silver-lake-reservoir-20170430-story.html>

LA Artist France Stark's The Magic Flute Premieres At LACMA

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/la-artist-frances-starks-magic-flute-premieres-at-lacma-998770>

28th annual Fiesta Broadway kicks off Sunday in downtown Los Angeles

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-fiesta-broadway-20170430-story.html>

Winter rain brings attention to Los Angeles River

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/winter-rains-bring-attention-to-los-angeles-river/3823260.html>

Fans of El Chavo will love this mural

<https://www.theeastsiderla.com/2017/04/fans-of-el-chavo-will-love-this-east-l-a-mural/>

Hollywood and art world stars turn out to honor Jeff Koons at MOCA (and to dance to John Legend)

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-moca-gala-koons-20170430-htmistory.html>

Energy & Environment:

Environmental activists protest Wilmington refinery as part of Peoples Climate March

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/04/30/71368/environmental-activists-protest-wilmington-refiner/>

Entertainment & Facilities:

Writer's Guild of America and studios appear to make progress in negotiations as strike deadline looms

<http://www.latimes.com/business/hollywood/la-fi-ct-writers-guild-deal-20170430-story.html>

It's Not Just Hollywood Writers Who Lose Out During A Strike

<http://www.npr.org/2017/04/30/526250844/its-not-just-hollywood-writers-who-lose-out-during-a-strike>

Hollywood Wonders If Writers Guild Will Strike For Seventh Time

<http://variety.com/2017/film/news/strike-watch-writers-guild-hollywood-history-1202404047/>

Hollywood studios braced for writer's strike

<https://www.ft.com/content/3a72bd76-2d86-11e7-9555-23ef563ecf9a>

Health, Mental Health & Education:

The amputation rate for diabetics in poor areas is high. This Boyle Heights clinic is trying to change that

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-ln-amputation-clinic-20170501-story.html>

North Hollywood High team advances in National Science Bowl

<http://www.dailynews.com/social-affairs/20170430/north-hollywood-high-team-advances-in-national-science-bowl>

Public Safety:

Pedestrian killed by Metro bus, hit-and-run driver in Van Nuys

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/04/30/pedestrian-killed-by-metro-bus-hit-and-run-driver-in-van-nuys/>

Pedestrian killed following hit-and-run in Van Nuys

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170430/pedestrian-killed-following-hit-and-run-in-van-nuys>

2 teens shot at wake for gang member in Hyde Park

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/04/29/2-teens-shot-wake-gang-member-hyde-park/>

Apartment fire extinguished in Canoga Park

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170429/apartment-fire-extinguished-in-canoga-park>

Transportation:

Gas tax bill-designed to fix California's roads-could lead to more smog

<http://www.dailynews.com/environment-and-nature/20170423/gas-tax-bill-designed-to-fix-californias-roads-could-lead-to-more-smog>

Metro:

Metro Formalizes Plan To Speed Up Purple Line's Completion

http://laist.com/2017/04/28/purple_line_zoom.php

New Kinkisharyo rail cars slated to roll on Blue Line Monday

<http://thesource.metro.net/2017/04/30/new-kinkisharyo-rail-cars-slated-to-roll-on-blue-line-on-monday/>

City of Los Angeles:

LA Riots: 25 Years Later: Your Voices

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/04/30/71371/la-riots-25-years-later-your-voices/>

Los Angeles 1992: A Personal Reflection

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/los-angeles-1992-a-personal-reflection_us_59068e8fe4b03b105b44b9ee



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

1 message

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Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Eric Garcetti Talks About Transportation And Homelessness In Los Angeles

<https://theringer.com/eric-garcetti-los-angeles-olympics-transportation-homelessness-80fc1ebb9f17>

Editorial: The Olympics could be a boon for Los Angeles but it's foolish to think we can't lose

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Congratulations To Los Angeles!

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The IOC Should Have Put History Aside And Given The 2024 Olympic Games To Los Angeles

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As LA gets Olympics, there's unfinished business for Boston

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Behind The Bid: How Lawyers Brought The Olympics Back To LA

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Harvard-Westlake parking structure controversy coming to crossroads in Studio City

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Even in a booming economy, LA City Hall faces daunting budget challenges

The Ringer

Eric Garcetti Talks About Transportation And Homelessness In Los Angeles

By Bill Simmons

On Monday, it was announced that the 2028 Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles, but not all Angelenos are pleased with the news. The event takes a structural and financial toll on its host cities, and while Los Angeles may be more prepared to shoulder this burden than most other cities across the world, Southern California likely won't escape unscathed. On the most recent episode of The Bill Simmons Podcast, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti talked about some of the city's most pressing issues and the plans to prepare the city for the Olympics.

Listen to the full podcast here. This transcript has been edited and condensed.

Bill Simmons: It's not all hunky-dory [in Los Angeles].

Eric Garcetti: It's not.

Simmons: I think the homelessness is as bad as it's been since I've been here.

Garcetti: No. 1 in the country, unfortunately.

Simmons: The roads are in really bad shape. Traffic's bad still. ... I would just say those are the three biggest things right now and it seems like that crime is going up a bit.

Garcetti: Crime has leveled off. It's still the fifth- or sixth-safest year in 60 years.

Simmons: That's good.

Garcetti: And the increases have been in certain areas, it's actually tied into, I think, tied to homelessness as we've had a lot of people come out of the criminal justice system. Everybody doesn't want people locked away for 20 years for having a gram of something too much. But the savings that were supposed to go to the street to catch them when they got out early isn't there. So I've been frustrated because these folks are coming out. It's cheaper to get high than to get drunk. They're living in tents. Skid row and other places and we're not serving them, we're serving us. But the nice thing on traffic and homelessness, which are my top two priorities, the voters, the same election that changed the presidency, passed the biggest initiatives in both of those in American history. So that money's just starting to come in and people are like, "Why isn't it solved today?" It takes a minute. But over, it'll be, let's see, \$4 billion for homelessness over the next 10 years to build housing and give mental health services and the whole anti-addiction stuff. And then on public transportation, we're building 15 new rapid transit lines in L.A.

Simmons: Wow.

Garcetti: And that was approved by voters. So everything from Elon Musk, who we're working with on new tunneling technology to speed it up, to, as we talked about, bringing public transportation to the airport and downtown. It'll be a pretty transformed city. And Uber and Lyft were just the beginning. Connected cars is probably the quickest way to resolve traffic. Because when you think about it, a car about 95 percent of the time isn't moving. So the idea you have to own your car then park it someplace, which is valuable real estate but takes away the city's green space, increases the price of rents and stuff. L.A. is going to be a pretty transformed place and I think we're going to lead the way. So no question we're no. 1 in traffic, no. 1 in homelessness, but I think those are crowns we can lose.

Simmons: The carpool stuff seems like everybody can be better at that.

Garcetti: The carpool stuff, think about it. The old model of carpool was to work it out so you and I are going to the same place coincidentally and we can do that every single day. The new one is essentially car share.

Simmons: Yeah, car sharing I guess is a better way to put it.

Garcetti: And the technology too ... I don't think autonomous vehicles, fully autonomous in complicated cities, are right around the corner. But interconnected ones are. So you know that frustration on the freeway of, I don't see an accident, but why is everybody stopping and going—if we just all hit the accelerator at the same time, we'd go. When traffic is at its peak, which is only about 10 percent of the day, 95 percent of the streets don't have a car on top of it. So it's just inefficient space. We think we're closer to the cars, we're stopping and going, but once cars are connected to each other and can be a foot away and never hit each other, that's almost like doubling your capacity. So we have the money to do this. I want L.A. to be the first big city in America to test that stuff. And like I said, it takes a minute. Nobody's saying tomorrow it's going to be no traffic, but think about Carmageddon. Everybody said it was going to be the worst ever —

Simmons: That was the best weekend ever to drive in the history of L.A.

Garcetti: It was! Because you take a few people off the roads ... You get like 5, 10 percent of people off the roads and it flows.

Simmons: It was great. I was flying!

Garcetti: So part of it is changing behavior, and if need be, it is also, in the future, charging people for the roads they use. So if everybody knew they'd have to pay more to come into the city every single day —

Simmons: That's a good idea

Garcetti: —we would figure out ways to do car share more often so three or four people would come in from the Antelope Valley to downtown to their jobs.

Simmons: The 110 is fun with that because you put the little thing on your dashboard —

Garcetti: Yeah, the transponder

Simmons: —and you can fly through.

Garcetti: Yeah. And we're gonna do more of those lanes which people really like. So there's good things in the future but no question right now, that's the toughest part of living in L.A.

LA Times

Editorial: The Olympics could be a boon for Los Angeles but it's foolish to think we can't lose

Los Angeles scored a major victory this week by securing both the right to host the 2028 Summer Olympic Games and concessions from the International Olympic Committee worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Mayor Eric Garcetti and the city's Olympic committee officials get credit for extracting a better deal from the IOC in exchange for agreeing to wait an additional four years and let Paris host the 2024 Games.

As Garcetti correctly points out, the city (not to mention the region, state and nation) has much to gain in terms of direct and indirect economic benefits, infrastructure improvements and goodwill from hosting the Games. But it would be foolish for city leaders to assume that L.A. just can't lose, as Garcetti and other Olympics boosters have asserted. Of course it can. There are no guarantees when it comes to ticket sales, sponsorship deals or labor and materials costs for an event more than a decade away. And because the IOC refuses to share the risk of cost overruns, host cities are on the hook for any budget-busting developments.

Ideally, Garcetti would have insisted that the IOC protect the city from cost overruns in exchange for accepting the later date. But the city's experience with the 1984 Summer Games suggests that the window for negotiations hasn't fully closed. In the run-up to the '84 Games, public concern about the potential for a taxpayer bailout led voters to approve a ballot measure that threatened to withdraw L.A. as host unless the IOC reduced the city's risk. That's what led the IOC to waive the requirement that L.A. shoulder all unanticipated costs.

If they're done well, the Games can pay economic and civic dividends long after any Olympic-sized traffic jams are cleared.

Regardless, city leaders need to start working now to make sure the \$5.3-billion project doesn't turn into a boondoggle over the coming 11 years. Before committing the city's treasury to such a massive undertaking, city leaders must also commit themselves and their successors to vigilant oversight. That responsibility begins as soon as next week, when the L.A. City Council is expected to take up the new host city contract. Council members must make sure that all the promises made by the IOC are in the document before the deal is finalized in Lima, Peru, on Sept. 13.

The city — and the public — must scrutinize the financial assumptions and projections of the nonprofit group acting as the local Olympic organizers. The point is to detect and respond to problems as they emerge, not after they become irreparable.

That said, the mayor and L.A. Olympic committee officials appear to have done as much as possible under the circumstances to insulate the city from financial disaster. The budget has a reserve of \$487 million, and the state had agreed to kick in \$250 million to help pay for any shortfall in 2024. The new 2028 deal mitigates the risk even further by cutting some costs and finding new revenues.

Los Angeles also starts out with a crucial advantage over other hosts: It doesn't have to spend billions of dollars building anything. The plan is to use fields, arenas and other facilities that already exist or are scheduled to be built soon with private dollars. The one big-ticket item in the city's original proposal — a \$1-billion Olympic village to be constructed near downtown — was dropped in favor of a more prudent arrangement to house athletes in UCLA's new dorms.

Some Angelenos might wonder why the city should bother putting on something that promises inconvenience at best and a costly taxpayer burden at worst. The answer is that if they're done well, the Games can pay economic and civic dividends long after any Olympic-sized traffic jams are cleared. This means more federal funding sooner for infrastructure improvements, an influx of private investment, and spruced-up streets, parks and public spaces. This particular deal also means an immediate \$160 million investment in youth sports. That may sound like small change, but to the many kids who don't play sports because their parents can't afford sign-up fees as high as \$150, it could be life-changing.

There are also the intangible benefits of being part of a global, historic tradition — one of the few extant — that brings the entire world to your city. It can be a thrilling experience for Angelenos and their children, while selling the city to the millions who attend or watch the events from afar.

The 1984 Games turned out to be a financial success, doing more good for its host city than any Summer Games since then. L.A. may not be able to top that in 2028, but with luck and diligence it could host a world-class Olympic Games that leaves the city proud, not racked with buyer's remorse.

Fox and Hound

Congratulations To Los Angeles!

By Gary Toebben

Mayor Eric Garcetti made a once in a generation announcement — the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games are coming back to Los Angeles for the third time.

Two and a half years after losing the United States Olympic Committee's bid selection to another U.S. city, the determination and creativity of the Mayor and local Olympic leadership have solidified an agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to stage the 2028 Games here in L.A.

The Chamber and LA 2024 (now renamed LA 2028) recently commissioned the Thomas and Dorothy Leavay Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University to survey L.A. residents' opinion on holding the 2028 Games. An overwhelming majority, 83 percent, want Los Angeles to host, with 54 percent in "strong" support. The most frequently cited reason was the economic boost to Southern California.

In agreeing to let Paris host the 2024 Games and accepting the 2028 Games, Mayor Garcetti and the LA 2024

Committee, led by Casey Wasserman and Gabe Sikes, negotiated a deal that could result in L.A. receiving a contribution

of \$2 billion from the IOC, as well as the IOC's commitment to waive their cut of any surplus generated by the Olympics. The agreement also includes an interest free loan upfront, which will inject millions of dollars now into youth sports programs.

I have been so proud to serve on the LA 2024 Board of Directors with other local business, civic and sports leaders, and I look forward to our transition in preparation for the 2028 Olympics. Congratulations to Mayor Garcetti, the City Council, Casey Wasserman, Gene Sykes and all of L.A. The 1984 Olympic Games left a legacy in Los Angeles that is still felt over three decades later. I have no doubt that this agreement and the 2028 Olympic Games will do the same.

Sports Illustrated

The IOC Should Have Put History Aside And Given The 2024 Olympic Games To Los Angeles

By Ethan Brady

Monday's deal between Los Angeles and the International Olympic Committee to give the city hosting rights for the 2028 Summer Games was not unexpected. L.A. and Paris both bid for the 2024 Games, but Paris became a favorite for the earlier slot. Los Angeles reportedly sought concessions before it agreed to wait four more years—the deal with the IOC included \$1.8 billion, part of which will be paid in advance to increase participation in youth sports in L.A.

Just days before the decision, Mayor of L.A. Eric Garcetti said in an interview with BuzzFeed that L.A. has always been good for "rebooting" the Olympic brand. It sounded like a last-ditch case for L.A.'s hosting sooner rather than later.

And he's right: L.A. would have been the better host for the Summer Games in 2024. Unlike Paris, it's geared in exactly the direction that the IOC wants—and needs—to go: toward young people. The IOC has stated that it wants to attract this demographic. It added karate, sport climbing and three-on-three basketball to the Tokyo Games in 2020, and it started an Olympic Channel to connect with audiences on social media.

Los Angeles represents the excitement of these new additions. It's a young city with an Olympic bid that the evaluation committee called "dynamic and futuristic" in its final report last month. The city will host events in existing facilities like the Coliseum and the Rose Bowl, which played host to the financially successful 1984 Games. The report also praised the bid for integrating cycling races and the marathon throughout the city in order to maximize the number of spectators.

This is a stark difference from Paris, which presented a bid the committee saw as heritage-focused, calling it "historic, cultural and iconic." Paris wants to turn the River Seine, which snakes past icons like the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, into its own Olympic Park. The Seine, though, is currently too dirty to hold open-water events. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo pledged in 2015 that the Seine would be swimmable by 2024. But it's unclear if that goal will be met in time, considering a previous mayor's vow in 1988 to clean the river by 1994 was never fulfilled.

Indeed, Paris 2024 will be the centennial of the VIII Olympiad in Paris, providing an extra level of sentimental value. That was the first Games to feature an Olympic Village. But by highlighting the centennial as a key component of Paris's bid, the IOC is placing a strong emphasis on the past at a time when it wants to be reaching out to new audiences of the future. The IOC wasn't concerned about 100-year anniversaries during the 1996 bidding process, when Athens, home of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, lost out to Atlanta. In fact, this will be the first centennial Games in history. The IOC made a big gamble by choosing to celebrate the past rather than expand its viewership, and it may not pay off.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of this process is the way the decision was handled. Instead of waiting until September for the scheduled vote by the 95 members of the IOC representing 67 countries, a handful of officials worked out a deal with L.A. representatives behind the scenes. The deciding factor in L.A.'s concession was a \$1.8 billion check. That certainly doesn't reverse the image of the Olympics as a corrupt political body.

All that said, make no mistake: the IOC lucked out in securing both cities hosts over the next decade. "It is truly a tale of two great Olympic cities," said Patrick Baumann, a Swiss basketball executive and the chairman of the evaluation committee. But Paris represents the Olympic past and Los Angeles the future. The Olympics has one priority: spreading its message to new fans. And though the City of Lights will likely stage a historic Summer Games, history wasn't the right thing to focus on. The City of Angels was the one best positioned to begin a new Olympic era—as Mayor Garcetti said at a news conference yesterday, it will "return the Olympic legacy to what it's all about." Sadly, that will have to wait 11 years.

Boston Globe

As LA gets Olympics, there's unfinished business for Boston

The fanfare this week around the selection of Los Angeles as host of the 2028 Summer Olympics provides a taste of what Boston lost when it abandoned its bid for the Games in 2015. Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles announced the agreement Monday, which, if ratified by the Los Angeles City Council and the US Olympic Committee board in August, would make LA a three-time Olympic city after hosting the games in 1932 and 1984. That's cause for congratulations. In Paris, a likely host for the 2024 Olympics, officials gave LA a hearty "mission accomplie" but said talks on any Paris Games would continue throughout August. The final vote of the International Olympic Committee is scheduled for Sept. 13, in Lima.

As a chance for a city to strut before a world audience, the Olympic Games have no parallel. London 2012 helped reinforce London's transformation from a fusty imperial capital to a multicultural global crossroads. The opportunity to move Boston beyond gangster films and Freedom Trail platitudes, and reintroduce the nation's oldest big city as the educational and research powerhouse it has become, was a key part of the appeal of the failed 2024 Olympics bid. The proposal for a walkable Olympics would have left an enduring imprint on the city's physical form, and held out the promise of bringing together disparate and sometimes fractious communities and neighborhoods through the transformative power of sports. The unusual decision to consider two Olympic cities at once — including Los Angeles, which took Boston's

place as the American entry — also suggests a positive turn for the IOC, a signal that it wants to win back the favor of Western democracies. If Boston's bid had proceeded, it surely would have prevailed.

The challenge now for Boston is to rekindle and redirect the civic energy that the Olympics bid unleashed. Sure, Boston 2024 stirred up discord. But the Olympics bid foundered prematurely, subsumed by early PR mistakes that allowed NIMBYism to take root. Yet the effort also touched off a much-needed civic dialogue about the city's built environment and its transportation infrastructure.

Although much of that discussion has abated, the forward-looking planning and commitments that the Olympics might have spurred can be addressed in the 2017 mayoral campaign. One example: The plan that was on the table at the time the bid was scrapped would have turned Widett Circle into a new neighborhood, by constructing a massive deck over the railroad tracks there. It was a transformative idea then, and remains one now. For Boston, the Games also offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to galvanize investments in housing and transportation; to modernize the MBTA; to complete an Emerald Necklace that was supposed to reach Dorchester Bay; to resolve, at long last, the traffic horrors of Kosciuszko Circle.

Fortunately, Mayor Walsh's new Imagine Boston 2030 planning blueprint addresses some of the same needs that the Olympics might have. That plan calls for developing Widett Circle, and, like the Olympics plan, for greening Columbia Road. The test will be whether the city can implement those plans without the hard deadline the Olympics would have provided.

Los Angeles, which has hosted the Summer Games twice and will mostly use existing facilities in 2028, was well poised to take advantage when talks in Boston broke down. In its agreement with the country's second-largest city, the IOC also implicitly acknowledged the benefit of sweetening the pot for host communities. For 2028, the IOC has also agreed to give Los Angeles an immediate \$180 million advance, which is expected to cover the organizing committee's costs and rejuvenate youth sports programs with new funds.

By passing on the Olympics, Boston likely lost its chance to host the world's biggest sporting event for at least a generation. But maybe someday a different IOC will be able to come to terms with a future Boston, and give the world a better, smarter, more inspiring Games than what we might have had in 2024.

The Recorder

Behind The Bid: How Lawyers Brought The Olympics Back To LA

By Todd Cunningham

Eleven years is a long time to wait for anything, but the legal team behind Los Angeles' bid for the 2028 Summer Games, which was blessed by the International Olympic Committee this week, has given every indication that it can go the distance.

"I thought two years—the time between us getting the domestic bid and waiting for the final word—seemed like all the time in the world," said Jon Oram, a top transactional attorney and partner at Proskauer Rose, who served as counsel to the Los Angeles Olympic Bid Committee.

That was in August 2015, but he'd actually come aboard more than a year before that, at the behest of Casey Wasserman, the chairman and driving force behind LA's Olympic bid. Oram had come to know the founder of the fast-rising Wasserman Media Group while at Proskauer, a powerhouse in sports law, and offered to help.

Today Oram, Brian Nelson, general counsel to the bid committee, and LA City Deputy Counsel Manav Kumar are focusing their efforts on the U.S. Olympic Committee and Los Angeles City Council, which in roughly two weeks will be asked to give its approval to LA serving as host of its third Olympics. With Mayor Eric Garcetti leading the charge on LA's bid that would seem a slam dunk, but ...

"We're lawyers," Oram said. "We need to follow through."

That sort of relentless tenacity earlier made him a rising star in the legal world, pushing through the 2011 sales of Major League Baseball's Houston Astros and the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars, both of which he'd represented for more than four years. He also helped MLB outlast Frank McCourt's effort to retain possession of the Los Angeles Dodgers via bankruptcy that same year.

That determination also came in handy in the summer of 2015, when the U.S. Olympic Committee dropped the bid of Boston, its original choice over LA, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., as the city it would put forward to host the 2024 Summer Games to the International Olympic Committee. A storm of public outcry over the use of taxpayers' money and polls showing most Boston residents did not want the games forced its hand.

"We think Los Angeles gives us our best chance," USOC president Scott Blackmun told reporters when he announced Boston's replacement, citing the city's proven ability to run a profitable Olympics, an existing infrastructure of stadiums and arenas, and the overwhelming backing—88 percent, according to one poll—of Angelenos.

"We basically had to rip up our plan and start again," Oram said. But this time, he'd have some help. The first hire was Nelson, the former U.S. Justice Department general counsel, a fellow alum of Yale Law School. City attorney Kumar was also from Yale. But they weren't together because they knew the words to "Bulldog," the Eli fight song.

"Our skills are complementary," Oram said. "I'm a transactional lawyer, so my background is in sponsorships, venue agreements, corporate governance. Brian handles government relations at the city, state and federal level, as well as everything from labor issues to intellectual property protection." Kumar worked with the Garcetti administration, and the mayor's counsel, Rich Llewellyn, advising the city from legal perspective, along with City Attorney Mike Feuer, whose office reviewed all of the key documents.

Arenas and stadiums were leased, contractors and vendors were signed up and all was on track for 2024. But around May of this year the IOC, juggling strong pitches from Paris and LA, floated the idea of awarding two cities Summer

Games at once. By June, the unprecedented decision was made, and this week it became official. Paris would host in 2024 and LA, which had shown more willingness to wait, was chosen for 2028.

The LA bid sets the cost of staging the games at \$5.3 billion, lean by modern Olympic standards thanks in large part to utilizing Staples Center, LA Memorial Coliseum and Rose Bowl as venues, University of Southern California as the media center and housing the athletes at University of California, Los Angeles. It counts on tickets sales and sponsorships to offset the bulk of that, but most of the contracts to utilize those venues and the sponsorship deals had been completed in preparation for 2024 and will have to be reworked.

With the venue deals, ad agreements, housing, security and transportation pacts added in, several hundred—"I don't think we're at a thousand," Nelson said—contracts and other agreements will have to be reviewed and updated. Some hotel and billboard deals are being reworked now, but those pacts won't become a primary focus of the legal team until after the USOC signs off and the IOC finalizes the city's bid at a September session set for Lima, Peru.

"All the positive feedback we've received from the various vendors and partners with whom we have contracts has been really gratifying," said Nelson, who doesn't anticipate serious problems. In fact, he thinks that there are projects and programs outside of the actual games—such as the ongoing expansion of the LA subway system, and improving access to city youth sports—that might benefit the most from the extra time.

Garcetti said Monday that as much as \$160 million of the money advanced to the committee to help sustain it for the extra four years could go to youth sports.

"The additional time will enable us to do more for those programs and better leverage our sponsors to help as well, in a fashion that is sustainable and economically and environmentally sound," Nelson said. "We be able to spend more time inviting the community to participate, and let them see that while the games will come and go, the local benefits will continue for years."

Oram sounded confident that whatever the challenge, it would be met by his team, which also included Sigal Mandelker, who was confirmed as under secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence in June; LA2028 deputy general counsel and corporate specialist Tanja Olano; Heidi A. Lawson of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo; and LA2028 attorneys Anna Schmitz and Jared Schott.

Several of his Proskauer colleagues joined Oram, including partner and tax specialist Amanda Nussbaum, Nancy Sher Cohen (litigation), Anthony DiBenedetto (labor), Bowon Koh (tax), as well as corporate attorneys Sean Alford, Sally Bradley, Erica Esposito, Christine Lazatin and Krista Whitaker.

"This is a young and tremendously talented team with a lot of energy," he said. "We might not have a lot of Olympic experience, so we might do things a little differently, but we've asked advice and gotten it done."

There is no lack of legal expertise to call upon. The board of directors includes Ron Olson, a founding partner of Munger, Tolles & Olson, who oversaw audits for the committee; former California State Treasurer Kathleen Brown, a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips; and Mike Lenard, vice president of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Another committee member, David Ulich, a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton and president of the Foundation for Global Sports Development, was nominated for an Emmy last week for researching and co-producing the documentary "Munich '72 and Beyond."

The all-star legal lineup even has a bench waiting in the wings, and it includes film czar Ken Ziffren, co-founder of Ziffren Brittenham, and Kelly Crabb, a partner Sheppard Mullin who has worked on four different Olympics, was the lead counsel for China's Beijing Games in 2008 and handled the broadcast rights agreements for the 2012 London Games.

Nelson said the legal team and committee all felt they were poised at a moment in sporting history and no one was shrinking.

"We are all aware of the power of the Olympics and want to use it on behalf of the community, this region and this nation," Nelson said. "We want to show the country what a uniting force the Olympics can be in these extremely fraught political times."

Variety

Los Angeles Based Pilot Production Slides 14% To Seven Year Low

By Dave McNary

Television pilots shot in Los Angeles during the 2016-17 development cycle declined by 14% to 68 shows — a seven-year low — according to an annual survey by the film-permitting agency FilmL.A.

FilmL.A. president Paul Audley told Variety that the decline is due to the changing dynamics of the TV industry, with the streaming services Netflix and Amazon providing more programming that results in a lessening of the overall volume of pilot production.

"Despite this year's smaller crop of pilots, Los Angeles' television industry is robust," Audley said. "With so many projects under way, California is home to more scripted series than its top five competitors combined."

FilmL.A. reported on Wednesday that an overall total of 173 broadcast, cable, and digital pilots (109 dramas, 64 comedies) were produced during the 2016-17 development cycle, while the previous three cycles saw 201, 202, and 203 pilots in each season. Of those 173 pilots, a total of 68 projects (22 dramas, 46 comedies) were filmed in the Los Angeles region, down from 79 in 2015-16, 91 in 2014-15, and 90 in 2013-14.

Pilots shot in Los Angeles for the most recent season include "A.P. Bio," "Alone Together," "Amy's Brother," "Atypical," "Brothered Up," "Brown Girls," "Champions," "College-ish," "Disjointed," "Distefano," "Forever Boys," "Charlie Foxtrot," "For the People," "American Woman," "Behind Enemy Lines," "Counterpart," "Good Girls," "Hannah Royce's Questionable Choices," "Heathers," "Here Now," "Law & Order True Crime: The Menendez Murders," "Marvel's Runaways," "Mayans MC," "The Onyx," "Rebel," "S.W.A.T.," "Sharp Objects," "Ten Days in the Valley," "Too Old to Die Young," "Unit Zero."

unsolved. The murders of Tupac and the notorious B.R.G., United Nations, and the 1992 Los Angeles riots. FilmL.A. estimated on Wednesday that the 68 L.A.-based pilot projects yielded \$303 million in production spending. It also said that the share of overall pilot production by project count remained unchanged for Greater Los Angeles at 39%. Los Angeles saw 79 pilots shot in the region in 2015-16, compared with 24 in New York, 21 in Vancouver/British Columbia, 12 in Atlanta/Georgia, and nine in Toronto/Ontario.

The report also noted that the overall industry saw a total of 65 network, cable, and digital shows ordered straight-to-series in the 2016-17 cycle, including 29 in cable, 27 in digital networks, and nine in broadcast networks.

"When it comes to television, L.A. production has never been stronger," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "This report demonstrates that L.A. is still the place to shoot, whether you're producing pilots or series. And as a former actress, I am well aware of how many jobs each and every one of those episodes generates."

FilmL.A. also reported 173 series currently in production in California, out of a total of 426. That includes 62 L.A.-based drama series, 30 of which received the California Film & Television Tax Credit, which was expanded two years ago. The agency estimated that California-based incentivized series will spend an estimated \$1.72 billion during the present season.

"If you grew up in Detroit, someone on your block worked for a car manufacturer or owned a business where autoworkers spent their paychecks. Here in L.A., the same goes for our entertainment industry — it's the bedrock of our middle class," noted Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

"Today's report further demonstrates the importance of our California Film and Television Tax Credit, which is keeping production where it belongs — in Los Angeles — and making our city home to more scripted television than its top competitors combined," he said. "We're hearing a lot of good news from the entertainment industry, but we have to keep investing in our middle class — and that means restoring our market share of pilot production."

Garcetti told the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on July 20 that he will push for an increase in California's production tax incentives to at least \$500 million annually — up more than 50% from the current \$330 million figure. The current program runs out after the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Hollywood Reporter

Los Angeles TV Production Dips In 2016-2017 Season

By Brynn Sandberg

Los Angeles remains the top place for TV production.

According to a newly released report from FilmL.A., the nonprofit film office, 173 broadcast, cable and digital pilots — 109 dramas and 64 comedies — were produced during the 2016-17 development cycle, more than two dozen fewer than the previous year.

Out of those 173 pilots, a total of 68 projects — 22 dramas and 46 comedies — were filmed in the Los Angeles region, yielding an estimated \$303 million in production spending. Despite a slight drop in overall pilots produced since last year, the city's share of overall pilot production by project count remains steady at 39 percent.

"Despite this year's smaller crop of pilots, Los Angeles' television industry is robust," FilmL.A. president Paul Audley said Wednesday in a statement. "With so many projects underway, California is home to more scripted series than its top five competitors combined."

After Los Angeles, the top competitors for pilot production in 2015-16 included New York (with 24 projects), Vancouver (21 projects), Atlanta (12 projects) and Toronto (nine projects).

FilmL.A.'s report, which also examines straight-to-series show orders and digital pilot projects in production, reveals that a total of 65 network, cable and digital shows were ordered straight-to-series in the 2016-17 cycle. Cable networks put 29 shows into production, while digital networks launched 27 shows and broadcast networks launched nine shows straight-to-series.

"When it comes to television, L.A. production has never been stronger," added Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "This report demonstrates that L.A. is still the place to shoot, whether you're producing pilots or series. And as a former actress, I am well aware of how many jobs each and every one of those episodes generates."

By FilmL.A.'s count, there are 173 series currently in production in California out of 426 sampled series currently in production across network, cable and digital distribution channels. That number includes 62 Los Angeles-based drama series, 30 of which receive tax incentives from the state. Altogether, California-based incentivized series will spend an estimated \$1.72 billion during the present season.

"If you grew up in Detroit, someone on your block worked for a car manufacturer or owned a business where autoworkers spent their paychecks. Here in L.A., the same goes for our entertainment industry — it's the bedrock of our middle class," noted Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Today's report further demonstrates the importance of our California Film and Television Tax Credit, which is keeping production where it belongs — in Los Angeles — and making our city home to more scripted television than its top competitors combined. We're hearing a lot of good news from the entertainment industry, but we have to keep investing in our middle class — and that means restoring our market share of pilot production."

The Desert Sun

Company's plan to sell Mojave Desert groundwater opposed by LA water officials

By Ian James

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is opposing a company's proposal to pump groundwater in the Mojave Desert and sell it to Southern California cities.

The L.A. water utility's board weighed in against the project on Tuesday, recommending to Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council that they support a bill in the state Legislature requiring California to review the environmental impacts of the proposal.

"We feel that the risks to the desert don't justify whatever profits or potential jobs might be gained from taking water out of this important desert aquifer," LADWP Board President Mel Levine said after the meeting. He said he brought the matter before the board to point out the project's "very serious risks to every component of the environment in the Mojave Desert."

Cadiz Inc. aims to pump as much as 16.3 billion gallons of groundwater per year on land surrounded by Mojave Trails National Monument about 75 miles northeast of Palm Springs.

Conservation groups say if the company is allowed to draw down the aquifer, it would threaten natural springs and wildlife in the heart of the Mojave Desert.

Cadiz disagrees, saying the project wouldn't harm the environment in any way.

State Assemblymember Laura Friedman, D-Glendale, last month introduced a bill that would establish additional requirements for the project to proceed.

The legislation, AB 1000, targets Cadiz by requiring state regulators to review projects that would transfer groundwater away from desert lands in the vicinity of national monuments, national preserves and other protected spaces. The State Lands Commission, working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, would be tasked with ensuring that the transfer "will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat," of protected lands nearby.

The bill was passed by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in a 7-2 vote on July 11. It's slated to go next before the Senate Appropriations Committee, and then on to the full Senate.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has long fought the Cadiz project in Washington, sent a letter to Levine ahead of Tuesday's meeting urging LADWP to support the bill in Sacramento. She said Cadiz's proposal would "irrevocably harm the Mojave Desert."

"The Cadiz water extraction project proposal illustrates why state protections of desert groundwater basins are so critical at this time," Feinstein said in the letter. "Supporting projects like Cadiz is not supporting smart water infrastructure or sound science. It's putting private profit over public lands that belong to all Californians."

Levine and the other commissioners decided to send a letter to Garcetti and the City Council urging them to support AB 1000. They also agreed to recommend that L.A.'s representatives on the board of the larger Metropolitan Water District of Southern California continue to oppose the Cadiz project.

At their next meeting in two weeks, Levine said the LADWP board will vote on a resolution formalizing their opposition to the project.

Courtney Degener, Cadiz's vice president of communications, said the commissioners' recommendation was made without "fair notice" and without an official briefing by the project's proponents.

"We only learned late yesterday that the Commission would discuss the project and AB 1000 and that was via a tweet from an opposition group, not LADWP," Degener said in an emailed statement. "The verbal staff report provided did not accurately inform the Commission of the scientific, engineering, environmental, financial or legal aspects of the project."

"It is disappointing that a public agency would conduct so unfair and biased a process for a project that will safely provide water for 400,000 people," Degener said.

She said that the company hopes to "have an opportunity to properly brief" the LADWP board before its next meeting. "If properly informed we don't believe the City of Los Angeles will support AB 1000 or share the Commission's position."

Degener said Friedman's bill "establishes a terrible precedent for all projects and as a result has already garnered the opposition of more than 50 California organizations."

A list of the bill's opponents includes 18 water agencies and organizations, from the East Orange County Water District to the Mojave Water Agency, as well as the Southern California Association of Governments, cities, business associations and labor groups.

Cadiz owns 34,000 acres in the desert along Route 66 in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys, close to the Mojave National Preserve, and is proposing to build a 43-mile pipeline alongside a railroad line to send the water to Southern California cities. Railroad tracks run near Cadiz Inc. The company proposes to build a water pipeline alongside the railroad. (Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)

While pursuing its plan to sell water, the Los Angeles-based company has been running its wells to irrigate nearly 2,000 acres of farmland, growing lemons, grapes, raisins and other crops.

Cadiz's proposal was temporarily stymied during the Obama administration when Interior Department officials said the proposed pipeline wasn't within the rights originally granted to the railroad in 1875 and would require an additional permit. But that hurdle was apparently removed earlier this year when President Donald Trump's administration announced a related policy change, scrapping guidelines that detail how federal officials are supposed to evaluate uses of public lands alongside railroads.

RELATED: Will a federal policy change help this company sell Mojave Desert water?

Opponents of the project have also voiced concerns about the appointment of David Bernhardt as deputy Interior secretary. Bernhardt, who was confirmed by the Senate last month, is a partner and shareholder – along with Cadiz CEO Scott Slater – in the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, which in turn owns shares in Cadiz.

Levine, an attorney and former Democratic member of Congress from 1983-93, said safeguarding the environment in the

California desert has long been important to him. He sponsored desert protection legislation while in the House prior to the 1994 approval of Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act, which turned Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments into national parks and created the Mojave National Preserve.

Levine said he had heard about Cadiz's proposal intermittently for many years but didn't think it was likely to go anywhere until the Trump administration began signaling support.

"Basically it's our collective view and my personal view that we have an administration in Washington that is hell-bent on compromising the environment," Levine said. "Fortunately, we have state and local leaders such as Mayor Garcetti and Gov. Brown who are committed to state and local action to protect our environment, and we wanted to go on record supporting that type of environmental protection in the context of a project such as Cadiz that we feel is likely to do, as Sen. Feinstein said, irreparable harm to the desert."

Levine said he and other commissioners received comments ahead of their discussion from people on both sides of the debate.

David Lamfrom, the National Parks Conservation Association's desert director, praised the LADWP board for taking the position that the Cadiz project isn't consistent with L.A.'s sustainability efforts, saying they "took powerful action today to defend precious California desert water resources" for communities, wildlife and protected areas.

"I think they're sending a really clear signal – to water districts, to Sacramento, to the governor, to the mayor," Lamfrom said. "If you're a company who's trying to sell water, to have one of the nation's largest water districts telling you that they have no confidence in you or your product or your intentions is a really serious thing."

Curbed

Biking in Los Angeles: A Q & A with the former head of LACBC

By Bianca Barragan

Projects tied to the city of Los Angeles's Vision Zero program are sparking clashes from Playa del Rey to Northeast Los Angeles. Vision Zero aims to end traffic deaths in the LA—the nation's deadliest city for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, passengers, and motorcyclists.

It's the program's methods, not its goals, that are dividing Angelenos. Under the plan, lanes dedicated to cars have been removed to slow down traffic (speed is a proven factor in roadway deaths) and to make room for bike lanes, pitting drivers against pedestrians and bike safety advocates.

Tamika Butler, who just departed her post as the executive director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, has had firsthand experience trying to bring the needs and interests of Angelenos who ride bikes to the forefront.

Curbed spoke to Butler about biking, issues faced by people who bike, her new role as executive director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, and how to continue to make LA a fun, safe, healthy place for all residents—regardless of how they get around. The conversation was edited for length and clarity.

You're a big promoter of equity in biking and transportation. What does that look like? Are there examples we could see in play today?

For me, when we talk about equity, if you have to simplify it—which I hate doing, because it is complicated—but if you have to simplify it, it's making sure those who have had the least, get the most.

I think that's really uncomfortable for people, because it sometimes means that those who have had the most aren't going to get as much. And in their mind, they think it means they're giving something up.

I don't identify as a cyclist. I identify as a person who loves to ride my bike. The more we think about that—that these are people on bikes—hopefully drivers will see those people.

When I first joined the Bike Coalition, I remember going to my first bike summit and going to a panel with people from the bike industry who were talking about marketing to women—how they market differently to women, why it's important to market to women, why we need more women riding bikes, and for women to seeing themselves in marketing materials. And I remember sitting in the crowd and hearing the hispers from some of the men in the room, and also a little bit on social media, how it was sexist that this panel even existed. For me, not coming from the bike world, that experience was kind of this rude awakening.

I realized that this is a world filled with a lot of straight white men who have been relatively privileged in different ways in their life, and for them, being a cyclist and identifying as a cyclist is something that is really important. It's something that is part of their core identity, and for many of them, in their opinion, it is the way they've been oppressed.

And so to even start to have a conversation with them about why even identifying as a cyclist isn't the most inclusive, to get from there to equity has always been a stretch.

Why don't you like the term "cyclist"?

I'm not a cyclist. I don't identify as a cyclist. I identify as a person who loves to ride my bike. The more we think about that—that these are people on bikes—hopefully the more drivers will see those people as grandmas and mothers and kids trying to go to school. Is it going to solve all the problems? No. But sometimes folks put those labels on us, and it helps make us less than a person, just a cyclist.

You came to LACBC toward the end of 2014, and July 14 was your last official day on the job. In that time, how have you seen biking change and improve in LA?

If you look at the pictures from that most recent meeting about the street improvements in Mar Vista, it was a packed house, and it wasn't just people who bike. It was our friends, it was family members, it was grandmas, it was folks in the Vision Zero Alliance with us. The visibility of people who bike and the sheer numbers have increased.

I think one of the hardest parts about me leaving is that, when you leave something, you like to sit back and think about all the ways in which it's gotten better and you helped it get better.

And maybe with some time, some reflection, and a little bit of vacation I'll be able to do that. But right now, I think when we have the last two weeks like we've had with Mar Vista, when folks are talking about the fact that a few extra minutes on a commute might be more important than lives, you really wonder if things have changed.

What do you think happened there?

When you dig deeper into these incidents of "bikelash," what keeps coming up for folks is, that they say, "We want everybody to be safe, but where's the community engagement? When did folks talk to us?"

That's another thing that really ties to that equity point. Our government agencies or our nonprofits need to ask: Are we getting better at community engagement? I think we'd be hard-pressed to say we're not getting better, but have we figured it out? Have we cracked the code? I don't know that we have.

A lot of the work you've done has been expanding the discussion beyond bikes at the Bicycle Coalition.

Especially for bike advocates, there has been this need to singularly focus on bicycling. I totally get it. I talk to folks who have been doing this way longer than me, who have more battle scars, and what I've heard is no one cared about biking. So many of the folks who started this work, or started biking even, did it as something that wasn't mainstream, and there was a lot of pride in that identity. But I think many movements struggle with transitioning from being the outsider to saying, "Hey, we're like everybody else!" And do you even want to do that?

I think bicycle advocacy has struggled with that. What's our message? Who are we? What makes us unique? What makes us the same? What are we working for?

Again, this is something that happens when a movement matures. As someone who's black, I think there are some folks who are a little older, who were part of the Civil Rights movement, who don't understand Black Lives Matter. There are different tactics and different ways of doing things.

What's been the response to expanding the discussion?

That's what I've gotten the most pushback about, the most harassment about, the most bullying about.

The issue is that the folks who have been the most vile and aggressive in their pushback think we're talking about these other issues instead of biking. But we're not.

One of my pet peeves is when people say that the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's mission was to make LA County a safe, healthy, and fun place to bike.

The mission didn't change. We've just had to realize that if you want LA County to be that safe, healthy, fun place, the people who are riding bikes have to be able to afford to live here. They have to have affordable housing.

If they're homeless and they're worried about where they're going to sleep at night, then they're not going to be in a place where biking is fun, healthy, and safe.

If they're riding for fun, not transportation, and they want a bike path or a nice park to ride, but there are no parks or bike paths anywhere near their neighborhood, then they're not in a place where biking is fun, healthy, and safe.

You have to understand intersection. As a queer black woman, I live at the intersections, and so I'm not able to see a world in which there aren't multiple factors at play in everything that happens. Folks who say, "Why are you talking about more than bikes? This is the only issue," are doing so because they're coming from a perspective where they've been really lucky and privileged that they only have to think about one issue.

How does outreach have to change or improve to get everybody behind Vision Zero, and do you think it's possible to get everyone behind it?

Something I learned long ago is that you're never going to get everybody to 100 percent agree on everything. What you can do is, you can hear them. You can make sure they feel validated, and you can explain why you're doing the things you do. At the end of that, there are still going to be people who disagree with you, and there's only so much you can do. For transportation to continue to be successful in LA ... we have to figure out how to talk about these issues in a way that people understand—and not just in terms of commuting.

Engagement takes time. Our structures set up this paradigm where we have to meet deadlines and get projects done, where community engagement might be a meeting that we can check off on a list.

We don't really ask ourselves, did that meeting happen after work? Was that meeting in a convenient location for everyone? If a majority of the people in this neighborhood are non-English speakers, did we provide translation services? Did we make sure all of the materials were in those languages? These are the things that take more time.

I happen to think that the bar that many people use for community engagement presently is too low, and that we have to up our game and really be more creative about how we're meeting people where they are.

I think there's this tendency in this work to say, "We need to work with a nonprofit who's going to talk to people in the community and train the people in the community to talk like we talk and understand the issues like we understand them." But instead, we should be saying, "You know what? The knowledge and expertise is in the community, so I'm going to go there. And I'm not going to go in there as a savior—saying here's the plan, here's what we're going to do. I'm going to listen. I'm going to put in some time. I'm going to go to several meetings before bike lanes even come up." I think folks who are doing this work need to set the bar for engagement much higher.

What are some of the biggest hurdles to creating a safer, better transportation environment for Angelenos?

We can't ignore that in LA we are a car-centric culture. We can't ignore in LA that the Hollywood industry has historically really pushed back against bike lanes. We have unique challenges in LA that there aren't in other places.

To be successful, we're going to have to do more engagement. We're going to have to understand intersectionality way better.

For transportation to continue to be successful in LA—to ride the momentum of Measure M and make sure Measure M goes well—we have to figure out how to talk about these issues in a way that people understand—and not just in terms of commuting.

When Mayor Eric Garcetti was campaigning for Measure M, one of the things I heard him say all the time was:

transportation is the prism through which we should see all other social issues.

If you can't get to school, you're not going to get your education. If you can't get to work, you're not going to get your paycheck. As soon as we can get better at consistently talking about that and talking about transportation and mobility in a way that brings people together and not excludes people or keeps people out, I think the better off we'll be in Los Angeles.

You're moving on to work at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, which focuses on bringing parks and green space to communities of color in LA. Is that a natural progression of your work with the LACBC, or is it a totally new direction? At the end of the day, what I've always cared about is social justice, people and communities, and bringing people and communities together.

I could say about the LA Neighborhood Land Trust that it's about making sure that LA is a fun, healthy, safe place to be, just like the LACBC was.

Some people don't want a bike lane, because they think it's the first sign of gentrification; they think that property values might go up, and they might get pushed out. The same thing happens with a park. This job is totally a natural progression of what I've been doing, and it's something I'm excited about.

To touch on what you said about how some people fear improvements—a park, bike lanes, a renewed LA River—because, for them, those improvements mean the countdown clock has started until they have to move. This suspicion of what many would consider “nice things” looks strange to people who have never had that conflict.

As the paid advocates, we have to do better at understanding that there are real concerns, especially in LA, where everything you read talks about how much money you have to have just to live here.

Whenever changes come, whether or not it's in our relationships or in our communities, there's always this thought: “Is that change for me? Is that change for someone else? Am I going to benefit from this? Did I get to contribute to it? Am I part of this? Did I help build this?”

Sometimes, folks who have done this work, they assume that because they're experts, people will trust them, and people will trust them to do the right thing. But for so many of us in this country, no one's ever really cared about us, and trusting people in power hasn't really gotten us too far. So if we don't think about those historical and social contexts as we go in to do our work, then our work isn't going to be successful.

National Review

The Coming Swarm Of Presidential Candidates

By Jim Geraghty

The 2020 primary field is shaping up as an also-ran-a-rama. It's easy to laugh at Congressman John Delaney of Maryland, the little-known House Democrat who announced, to the opposite of fanfare, that he intends to run for his party's presidential nomination in 2020. FiveThirtyEight, a site for political junkies, joked that they couldn't remember his name and concluded, “This whole thing is a little nuts.” Politico greeted him with the headline, “What is John Delaney thinking?” The Republican research firm America Rising offered a one-word statement in response: “Who?” But Democrats should feel unnerved by the fact that no one around Delaney can persuade him that this is a bad idea. The party is full of better-known, semi-known, and even comparatively little-known figures who might think they can do themselves or their career some good by announcing a presidential campaign. And it's not hard to imagine the bunch of them taking the plunge, creating another unruly stampede of candidates drowning one another out, and leaving the most outlandish candidate standing at the end. Democrats should prepare for the double-decker debate stage that Republicans endured in 2016. Start with the well-known, instantly serious candidates. Former vice president Joe Biden (1) told the Washington Post this spring, “Do I regret not being president? Yes.” Vermont senator Bernie Sanders (2) may or may not want to run again, but he would begin with 13 million Democrats who voted for him last time, and he has to at least pretend to be interested in order to avoid the political equivalent of being put out to pasture. Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren (3) has been the Democrats' presidential candidate of the future since 2011. It's not true that every Democratic senator and governor is being mentioned as a potential candidate; it just feels that way. California senator Kamala Harris (4), formerly her state's attorney general, is getting a lot of attention; Democratic donors tell The Hill she's “absolutely going to run.” New Jersey senator Cory Booker (5) spent much of his early career setting up Silicon Valley—focused centrist cred, but he's veered to the left since Trump took office. Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar (6) visited Iowa. States want the DHS to help protect election systems 00:15 00:45 Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe (7) says he might run for president. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley (8), whose campaign went nowhere in 2016, is polling Iowa caucusgoers for 2020. Montana governor Steve Bullock (9) is giving his party advice and is one of the few names on this list who can boast of winning a “red state.” Quite a few Democrats think New York governor Andrew Cuomo's ambitions will drive him to run (10). California governor Jerry Brown (11) will be 82 and doesn't sound likely, but he says he's not ruling out a presidential run. Politico reports that former president Barack Obama wants former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick (12) to run. Over in the House, Chris Matthews asserts that Representative Adam Schiff (13) of California, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, will run for president. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts (14) is getting a lot of buzz, considering his low name ID. Back in December, the New Yorker declared that Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii should run for president (15). Oh, and then there's Delaney (16). Buzz about a presidential bid surrounds two mayors, Eric Garcetti (17) of Los Angeles and Mitch Landrieu (18) of New Orleans. We're up to 18 candidates, and that's not counting the celebrities and media figures who might think Trump demonstrated that political experience is not only no longer required, but a liability: Mark Zuckerberg, Oprah, Mark Cuban, and so on. Quite a few Democrats see Trump's victory in 2016 as a fluke, a historical accident, a twist of fate that can be explained only by Russian mischief. If President Trump's job approval remains low, a lot of Democrats will conclude that the 2020 race will

be the easiest path to the presidency in their lifetime. If President Trump's job approval remains low, a lot of Democrats will conclude that the 2020 race will be the easiest path to the presidency in their lifetime. For the lesser-known GOP candidates of the 2016 cycle, the dual-tier debate format turned into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Candidates polling poorly, usually with the lowest name recognition, were consigned to the 6:00 p.m. "undercard debate," the political equivalent of preseason football, with fewer viewers and fewer opportunities to break out. Even in the prime-time debates, there were only so many ways for candidates to say that Obamacare was a mess, taxes needed to be lower, they opposed abortion, and they would never "lead from behind" on the world stage. Long stretches of the debates turned into repetitive rhetorical sludge. A discerning primary voter could fairly ask some of the lesser-known, longest-of-long-shot, uninspiring, cookie-cutter candidates . . . "Why are you here?" (Anderson Cooper came close to this in one of the early Democratic presidential debates when he pointed out to Lincoln Chafee, "You've only been a Democrat for little more than two years.") Their agendas, campaign speeches, and commercials were similarly indistinct; the senators and retired governors all started blurring together into HucksantorGilmorePatakiGraham. One chunk of the field convinced itself there was an "establishment lane," leaving Jeb Bush, John Kasich, Marco Rubio, and Chris Christie all elbowing each other for the same base of support that proved insufficiently influential. On the other side, Ted Cruz, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, and Scott Walker tried to occupy the "conservative lane." Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina competed with Trump for an "outsider lane." But in the end, it turned out there were no real lanes, just a traffic jam. Every non-Trump candidate's determination to be the last one standing against Trump was the strategic miscalculation of the cycle. America has many politicians who are unremarkable beyond their inexplicable adamancy that they deserve to be the next president of the United States. For several cycles, these wannabes have treated our presidential primaries as book tours with bigger crowds and more balloons, eating up air time and media oxygen, certain that even if they failed miserably, a television gig, higher speaking fees and maybe another, bigger book deal awaited them after the marathon. The primary electorate's serious duty of sorting through genuinely qualified candidates is made harder by these globs of candidate cholesterol clogging up the arteries of democracy. Don't laugh, Democrats. Your own version of Jim Gilmore is coming. At some point in 2019, the media and primary voters will gather in a large room for a televised debate and listen to some unknown lawmaker who everyone knows will not finish in the top ten of either Iowa or New Hampshire stammer through a two-part question on Social Security. That unknown lawmaker might very well be John Delaney . . . not that you'll be able to remember his name anyway.

La Sentinel

New Workforce Development Program Means Win For LA

By Brian Carter

"It's a win-win because this phase is going to help the community go into the 21st century and beyond," said John 'Big John' Harriel, IBEW electrician and project superintendent for Morrow Meadows.

On Friday, July 28, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) launched Workforce Initiative Now-LA (WIN-LA), a groundbreaking workforce development program focused on creating career pathways in the transportation industry. Metro and elected officials along with employers, community-based organizations and workforce centers converged at the Sheraton Grand Los Angeles Hotel to galvanize this new initiative together.

In attendance was Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington and Miguel Cabral executive officer, diversity & economic opportunity, Mayor & Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mayors James T. Butts (Inglewood), Robert Garcia (Long Beach), Vartan Gharpetian (Glendale), councilmen Robert S. Joe (Pasadena) and Jeff Wood (Lakewood), Kate Mergen, director, governmental & regulatory affairs, associated general contractors of California, Shenae Rourk, chair, transportation business advisory council and chair, national association of women business owners and Robert B. Miller, vice chancellor, finance and resource development, Los Angeles Community College District. The event introduced WIN-LA to prime contractors, small businesses and other potential partners to encourage their participation in the new programs designed to benefit the entire region.

"The expansion of our transportation system is going to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and we have a responsibility to make sure the people in our own communities have the skills to fill them," said Garcetti. "Workforce Initiative Now-Los Angeles will offer training resources to people across L.A. County, and prepare them for tomorrow's good-paying Metro jobs."

"We are about to launch a very, very deep and wide workforce development initiative focused on transportation as the centerpiece but it will move beyond that," said Ridley-Thomas. "Nothing but good news that can come out of this so our job is to put this WIN program out in our communities and tell people get ready, get ready, get ready!"

Career pathways include construction, non-construction opportunities in operations/maintenance, administration and professional services. Unique to the program, WIN-LA will provide support for participants in areas such as life skills development, skill set enhancement and educational attainment services through a collaboration of program partners. It also will increase the resources needed for training and placement of hard-to-fill positions within Metro and the transportation industry.

"It's an opportunity for people to really learn about transportation and know that there are so many jobs here that make this whole thing work," said Diane Frazier service operations superintendent for bus operations at METRO.

"This is a call to the community that your prayers have been answered," said Metro Board Member Jackie Dupont-Walker. "If you are looking for a career in transportation, that has over 40 different professions, you should check it out."

Approximately 39 percent of Metro's workforce will be eligible for retirement over the next three years with 69 percent of Metro employees currently over the age of 40. Succession planning is crucial to maintaining a viable agency and Metro needs a workforce to deliver its aggressive Measure M program over the next 40 years and beyond.

WIN-LA is designed to be a collaborative partnership between Metro and those institutions and organizations interested in helping job seekers, companies and local communities through demand-driven workforce services. The goal is to create career pathway opportunities in the transportation and construction industries.

"What WIN LA means for the community is really reaching out, especially to those communities that are impoverished and on the lower socioeconomic strata and identify people in those communities, assess them, train them and put them to work on our projects," said Washington.

Measure M, a half-cent sales tax initiative approved by the voters in 2016, will provide \$860 million annually to build 40 highway and transit projects throughout L.A. County over the next 40 years. It is expected to generate an additional 778,000 jobs.

"WIN-LA can be for those who feel they have no hope—the light at the end of the tunnel," said Dupont-Walker.

"If you are hanging out at Starbucks, or hanging on the corner—we want you. If you just got back from prison and you don't think anybody else wants you—we want you. If you have come back from serving in the military, can't find a place to land—we want you.

"[Metro] has something for everybody—just show up."

Daily News

Harvard-Westlake parking structure controversy coming to crossroads in Studio City

By Antonie Boesenkool

The controversy over a proposed parking structure for a prestigious private school has been building for four years. Judging by the signs on lawns in Coldwater Canyon and even bedsheets hung from homes, it hasn't cooled one bit.

Now, the issue could be coming to a head, with the first public meeting since the city issued both draft and final environmental impact reports for Harvard-Westlake School's plan to build the three-story garage topped with a lighted athletic field across Coldwater Canyon Avenue from its Studio City campus.

Residents have been fighting the project ever since it was proposed four years ago. They formed the group Save Coldwater Canyon!, circulated petitions and hired experts to make their own assessments.

Resident Sarah Boyd, president of the group, said the project will mean 30 months of construction and associated traffic snarls along a major thoroughfare.

"That's a lot to ask of a community for a project that's benefiting only the school; there's no public benefit," Boyd said last week as she and Suellen Wagner, another member of Save Coldwater Canyon!, drove with a reporter to a hillside neighborhood overlooking the proposed site. Across the street, homeowners at one house had hung a bedsheet from their balcony reading "Save Coldwater Canyon" in hand-painted red letters.

"That traffic has to go somewhere," added Wagner. "It will be horrendous during construction, and I think it will be definitely worse than it is now, after, because you're bringing in more cars."

Compared with the last four years of debate, the next steps could happen quickly. On Tuesday, a hearing officer for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning will host the public meeting at Van Nuys City Hall. Anyone can weigh in and speak about the project. Planning Department staff will compile those comments for the city Planning Commission and, importantly, the hearing officer will make a recommendation about the project for the commission. The Planning Commission could make decisions as soon as Sept. 28 on Harvard-Westlake's project, according to Cheryl Getuiza, spokeswoman for the Planning Department. Appeals to any decisions by the commission will extend the process.

Rick Commons, president of Harvard-Westlake, didn't return calls seeking comment Wednesday. But the school has laid out its position in detail on its website.

Harvard-Westlake School, which counts Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and new Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Nick Melvoin among its alumni, first proposed building the parking structure in 2013. On its website outlining the project and responding to criticism, the school says the 750-space structure would answer the need for more parking and a practice sports field, and it would improve student safety.

The new structure, which the school proposes to link to the campus with a pedestrian bridge over Coldwater Canyon Avenue, would mean students and staff wouldn't park on neighborhood streets, traffic flow would be improved and there would be no more bus parking on Coldwater Canyon, the school said on its website.

Harvard-Westlake's existing parking "doesn't come close to meeting its demands," the school said on its website. The school said it will build a new southbound through-lane and a northbound turn lane on Coldwater Canyon, plus two dedicated southbound turn lanes from Coldwater Canyon Avenue into the parking structure, plans that opponents have been criticized as impractical.

"A thorough, peer-reviewed traffic analysis approved by [Los Angeles Department of Transportation] concludes that there will be no backup on Coldwater Canyon. The analysis, and peer review also concludes that construction of the project will not significantly affect traffic," the school said on its website.

Opponents' concerns and complaints have been many, from the cutting down of protected oak and walnut trees (the school would be required to plant hundreds more trees) to the nighttime light that would come from the athletic field. (Fourteen light poles are planned, which would, at their top height, be 84 feet above the street. The school said the lights would be on only until 8 p.m. weekdays.)

But one major concern is that the project would mean removing 137,000 cubic yards of dirt with about nine months' worth of truck trips. For those who live in the twisty-road hillside neighborhoods that line Coldwater Canyon, that's a problem, Boyd and Wagner said.

"These people, by and large, obviously they're upset project for environmental reasons," Boyd said. "But they're also very worried about emergency vehicles getting into their neighborhood, about how they're going to get in and out and why."

they should be burdened by this.

Save Coldwater Canyon! isn't the only group opposing the project. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, with open space land abutting the project site, and the Studio City Residents Association, Sierra Club of L.A. and a few others also are against the school's plan.

Tuesday's meeting is set for 9 a.m. at Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys. Those who can't attend the meeting still have a chance to be heard by sending written comments to milena.zasadzien@lacity.org at the Planning Department by the end of Tuesday.

LA Times

Even in a booming economy, LA City Hall faces daunting budget challenges

By Dave Zahniser

Standing outside City Hall, Mayor Eric Garcetti launched his second term by offering an audience a celebratory message: Los Angeles has clawed its way back from crisis.

Garcetti described the city's emergence from a recession that, in his words, sapped the public's morale and "gutted" basic services. "We ... got back to work one street tree, one sidewalk, one pothole at a time," he told the audience last month. Los Angeles is indeed spending more on its streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure. Yet even in a booming economy, Garcetti faces a daunting set of budget challenges — including a projected gap of more than \$200 million in two years, budget estimates show.

The city continues to face a "structural deficit," with projections showing expenses exceeding the money that comes in. Retirement costs are poised to jump significantly, consuming funds that would otherwise pay for public services. And if another downturn hits, Garcetti will have less room to maneuver than in the last recession — thanks to decisions he and the City Council have made.

In recent years, the mayor and city lawmaker have signed off on legal settlements that dictate how much the city must spend on sidewalk repairs and on affordable housing for disabled renters.

Garcetti and the council also endorsed a legal agreement that, if approved by a judge, would limit the amount of money sent to the city budget by the Department of Water and Power. And they have reduced business taxes in a way that would be difficult to reverse during a crisis.

Those budget constraints represent more than \$100 million per year in lost revenue and additional financial commitments, a Times analysis found. And they will tie the hands of city leaders for years to come, said City Controller Ron Galperin.

"In the next downturn, that means there is going to be very, very little wiggle room" to balance the budget, he said.

Garcetti, in an interview, argued that the city's finances are "quite strong." Since the recession, he said, city leaders have built up more than \$400 million in reserves, double the amount available a decade ago.

"There's no question we're in a better position than we were in 2008," he said. "We're more efficient. We have more in reserves. We've been much better at increasing the staff in a prudent way."

Garcetti defended the sidewalk spending agreement, saying he would have pushed for the repairs anyway, and described the DWP settlement as "one we can live with." But he also argued that city leaders are working to bring in new sources of funding, including taxes on marijuana, billboards and short-term rental sites like Airbnb.

"There are revenues that make this not a one-sided story," he added.

Still, that money might not be enough. An analysis released by the city in April indicated that the general fund budget, which pays for police patrols, firefighter response and other basic services, could see a nearly 20% jump in pension and retiree healthcare costs by 2019.

A report issued in April projected a \$215 million increase in retirement costs over two years, if two pension boards lower their earnings projections. That figure could grow, depending on coming budget decisions.

That would push the city's retirement costs up to \$1.3 billion. Councilman Paul Koretz, who heads a committee on personnel issues, voiced fears about the city's ability to absorb such an increase in hard times.

"If we had a big economic downturn," he said, "we'd have to fill [the gap] by reducing services and probably laying people off."

The last time Los Angeles faced a recession, the city's elected officials were caught off guard.

When the downturn hit in 2008, they had just approved five years of employee raises totaling nearly 25% for most civilian city workers. They also had hired hundreds of new police officers.

What followed were service rollbacks in libraries, parks, the Fire Department and other agencies — and the departure of thousands of city employees. The crisis was exacerbated by major investment losses for the city's pension funds, which made the budget picture worse.

The city's pension agencies have seen stronger returns since the recession. But elected officials are about to confront a new round of challenges.

The looming pension threat

In June, the agency that oversees pensions for retired police officers and firefighters cut its "assumed rate of return" — its yearly earnings projection — from 7.5% to 7.25%. The Fire and Police Pensions board concluded that their investments would not produce returns as strong as previously forecast.

When the pension board reduces its investment projections, taxpayers — and the city budget — frequently make up the difference. But the board also updated its long-range forecast to reflect the reality that its retirees are living longer and will need pensions for a greater number of years.

Those actions are expected to increase the city's employee retirement costs by \$84 million next year, according to recent estimates.

The pension board for police officers and firefighters recently cut their yearly earnings assumptions, shifting the cost to the city budget. Investment returns have fluctuated dramatically over the past decade.

A second pension board, which serves civilian city workers, is set to consider a similar set of costly changes. If it follows the lead of Fire and Police Pensions, the city could see at least \$38 million in added costs, officials say.

The increased retirement costs are set to hit the city budget next year, when Garcetti and the council are slated to finalize new contracts with two big employee groups: the Police Protective League, which represents rank-and-file police officers, and the Coalition of L.A. City Unions, which represents civilian workers.

Art Sweatman, a tree surgeon supervisor with the Bureau of Street Services, said many city workers are struggling to keep up with rising rents and home prices.

"We need to keep up with the cost of living," he added.

For every 1% pay increase given to police officers and coalition workers, the city will need to spend an additional \$22 million, according to city estimates. And because pension benefits are based on salaries, those raises will ultimately add to the overall retirement burden.

City budget analysts say their pension cost projections could change significantly depending on hiring decisions, the size of raises and the economic performance of the two funds. But if their figures prove to be accurate and retirement costs grow by nearly 20%, the city would have to cut spending, bring in more money or tap reserve funds.

Scarred by the experiences of the last recession, city leaders steadily built up the reserve over the past decade. But they have also chipped away at it in recent years, using it to balance the budget and pay for programs to address homelessness.

Los Angeles' reserve fund, which includes money for emergencies, is a much bigger share of the general fund budget than it was during the recession. The figure for 2017 is an estimate.

Faced with a crisis, city leaders could do what they did last time — scale back public services. But some of those reductions won't be as easy next time.

Take sidewalks. When the global recession hit in 2008, city leaders halted funding for repairs, adding to an already sizable backlog of buckled pavement.

Soon after that decision, advocates for the disabled filed a lawsuit arguing that L.A.'s network of broken sidewalks violated the civil rights of wheelchair users. They demanded a citywide commitment to repairs.

Garcetti and the council settled the case once the economy recovered, promising to spend at least \$31 million a year on repairs. That obligation jumps to nearly \$36 million after five years and to \$41 million after a decade.

Even if a downturn hits, the city must spend no less than \$25 million per year to remain in compliance with the settlement agreement, according to Garcetti aides. That means they likely would have to look elsewhere for cuts.

They won't have much success reducing library hours, another area hit during the last recession. That's because voters passed a 2011 ballot measure increasing the minimum funding for libraries — an initiative placed on the ballot by Garcetti and other city elected officials.

Cuts at the Recreation and Parks Department also wouldn't make much of a dent, since that agency is also guaranteed a specific share of funding.

The city also has new spending obligations on housing.

Last summer, Garcetti and the council signed off on a legal settlement that requires city officials to spend at least \$200 million on housing for disabled renters over the next 10 years. This year, in the first year of that agreement, \$11 million is coming from the budget for basic services.

City funds could soon be limited in other ways, thanks to yet another legal fight.

Forfeiting revenue

Like many mayors before him, Garcetti has relied on the DWP to send the city budget what is billed as a yearly "surplus." But that practice has become the target of legal challenges, with ratepayer activists calling the money an illegal tax.

In an effort to settle those cases, Garcetti and the council cut the size of the payment to \$242 million, down roughly \$25 million from the previous year.

As part of the proposed settlement, city leaders agreed to limit the amount the DWP can transfer in future years. That would impede the city's ability to increase the funds taken from the DWP during a crisis, something previous mayors have done.

L.A.'s budget faces new constraints — financial commitments and forfeited revenue

Sidewalks: \$31 million in yearly repairs

Business tax cut: \$45 million per year in lost revenue

Disabled housing: \$20 million in yearly expenses

DWP settlement (proposed): \$25 million in reduced revenue

The city is also scaling back the business taxes it collects from key companies — lawyers, financial planners and other professional service firms. Garcetti secured passage of the reduction, which is being phased in over three years and is expected to remove \$45 million annually from the budget.

Garcetti contends that business tax cuts, pursued strategically, stimulate the economy and ultimately produce more money for the budget. Still, if he changes his mind, he and the council would have a difficult time undoing their decision. Under state law, any increase in the business tax would require a ballot measure and a citywide election, according to policy analysts.

The search for more money

Despite the looming budget pressures, Garcetti and the council managed to boost spending in two major areas this year: transportation and programs to address homelessness. Both were possible because voters agreed to tax themselves in the November election.

Garcetti and city lawmakers have been eyeing other sources of additional money.

In the mayor's latest budget, the city is expecting a \$36-million increase in lodging taxes, almost all of it from Airbnb and other short-term rental services. That assumption has infuriated some housing advocates, who contend that Airbnb disrupts neighborhoods and drives up rents.

The mayor is also looking to generate \$12 million this year from placing digital billboards on city property. But that strategy has not yet been approved by the council — and could face opposition from neighborhood groups.

Then there is the biggest windfall of all: an estimated \$50 million per year from marijuana retailers, who are looking to operate legally in the wake of recent ballot measures on pot sales.

The city's strategy drew criticism from Laura Lake, a Westwood resident who fought one of the city's last big money-making strategies — 50-year leases of municipal parking garages. The city is "desperate" for funds, she said, and is turning to solutions that will seriously affect neighborhoods.

Lake described digital billboards as a form of blight and argued that Airbnb is depriving Angelenos of rent-controlled housing. Marijuana retailers, because they deal in cash, may place an additional burden on police, she argued.

"I'm surprised the City Council isn't licensing brothels and casinos," Lake added. "I mean, why not?"

Garcetti contends the city's work on marijuana, billboard and home-sharing regulations is based on good policy, not a hunt for revenue. At the same time, he made clear he wants those funds to flow into the city budget.

"The voters passed marijuana [sales] and I'll be damned if the city isn't going to get some money from those increased sales, period," he said.

City Council:

Los Angeles will pay \$450,000 in police sex assault case

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170802/los-angeles-will-pay-450000-in-police-sex-assault-case>

Los Angeles City Council agrees to pay \$450,000 to settle LAPD sexual assault case

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-sexual-assault-20170802-story.html>

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Los Angeles Based Pilot Production Slides 14% To Seven Year Low

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There's A New Chester Bennington Mural Visible From The 101 Freeway

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LA artist's Chester Bennington mural brings Linkin Park fans to Sherman Oaks

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Los Angeles In Buildings: The Central Library

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/los-angeles-in-buildings-the-central-library>

Get your rod and reel and some tortillas-it's time to go fishing in the LA River

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Downtown Industrial Site Sold For \$10.6 Million

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Grand Central market spawns its own trend: Food Halls

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LA Consumer Sentiment Down In Second Quarter

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Back to school with later start times proposed to LAUSD students

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In LA, new urgency to deal with panhandling

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A 5% rent increase would push 2000 Angelenos into homelessness, study warns

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Rental company abruptly closes, customers out hundreds of dollars

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Fresh renderings from mixed user bringing 296 apartments to Historic South Central

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/8/2/16087624/development-new-apartments-south-la>

34 story tower planned for Brentwood moving forward

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/8/2/16086966/brentwood-tower-landmark-apartments-wilshire>

47 new apartments to sprout up near Lafayette Park in Westlake

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Planning & Land Use Management:

Harvard-Westlake parking structure controversy coming to crossroads in Studio City

<http://www.dailynews.com/social-affairs/20170802/harvard-westlake-parking-structure-controversy-coming-to-crossroads-in-studio-city>

Public Safety:

Man died of LAPD gunfire while barricaded in Hollywood motel

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170802/man-died-of-lapd-gunfire-while-barricaded-in-hollywood-motel>

LAPD seeks hit-and-run driver in Winnetka that killed motorcyclist

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Fire destroys North Hollywood garages and vacant apartment units

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170802/fire-destroys-north-hollywood-garages-and-vacant-apartment-units>

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LA committee approves funds to fight rising violent gang crime in West Valley

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170802/la-committee-approves-funds-to-fight-rising-violent-gang-crime-in-west-valley>

Tired of waiting on LA to repair bad sidewalks? You could get paid to do it for them

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/government-and-politics/20170802/tired-of-waiting-on-la-to-repair-bad-sidewalks-you-could-get-paid-to-do-it-for-them>

Valley street flooded after apparent water main break

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170802/valley-street-flooded-after-apparent-water-main-break>

2 water mains burst in Reseda in 1 day

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Broken Water Main Frustrates Reseda Residents

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/08/02/water-main-break-frustrates-reseda-residents/>

Intersection Flooded After Pipe Bursts In Reseda

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State funds could bring bike share to South LA and USC

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TAP vending machines resume normal service

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Metro TAP Machines Unable To Process Debit And Credit Card Payments Today

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Preview of August Service Council meetings

<http://thesource.metro.net/2017/08/02/preview-of-august-service-council-meetings/>

Say hello to Metro's best: Bus operators share what they enjoy most about the job

<http://thesource.metro.net/2017/08/02/say-hello-to-metros-best-bus-operators-share-what-they-enjoy-most-about-the-job/>

City of Los Angeles:

Where are we housing everyone for LA's 2028 Olympics?

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/08/02/74302/where-are-we-housing-everyone-for-la-s-2028-olympi/>

LA snagged the 2028 Olympics. What do you remember from the '84 Games?

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/08/02/74318/los-angeles-olympics-memories/>



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

Fwd: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 12:40 PM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/angelenos-are-good-with-la-mayor-eric-garcetti-running-for-president/>

LMU survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President

<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/09/22/lmu-survey-63-of-angelenos-would-support-garcetti-for-president/>

Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/keep-attention-on-aliso-canyon-gas-leak-and-its-victims-christy-smith/>

LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people

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LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines

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Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California

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Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city

<http://abc7.com/garcetti-discusses-early-warning-system-sanctuary-city/2444008/>

It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/sports/wp/2017/09/22/its-already-time-to-wonder-if-the-nfl-made-a-big-mistake-putting-two-teams-in-la/?utm_term=.0d880337fb66

Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/21/california-votes-for-march-madness-over-june-gloom/>

Daily News

Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president

By Elizabeth Chou

Mayor Eric Garcetti is looking presidential to some Angelenos.

A majority of local area residents polled earlier this summer said they are just fine with the Los Angeles mayor running for president, according to results released by Loyola Marymount University.

In a survey that received 914 responses, 62.7 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political position. The percentage was slightly higher for residents of the city of Los Angeles, with 63.5 percent of those polled supportive of the idea.

Latinos were the most strongly in support, with 72.7 percent saying they back a presidential bid by Garcetti. The idea also polled the best with the 30-44 age-group, and among those who earn less than \$40,000 annually.

Not everyone liked the thought of a run for president by Garcetti. The majority of those with a graduate degree and people with annual incomes of more than \$100,000 said they do not support him running.

Details about the poll results and methodology can be found [here](#).

The results provide further fodder for an ongoing parlor discussion by political observers around whether Garcetti is entertaining a run for president in 2020. Recent out-of-state trips by the Los Angeles mayor have fueled the speculation. He attended a Democratic Party convention in Wisconsin and participated in a fundraiser for a mayoral candidate in New Hampshire, a state that kicks off the presidential primaries.

Fernando Guerra, a Loyola Marymount political science professor who led the poll, says that at least for Angelenos, there is support for the idea of Garcetti running for president, but "naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles."

My News LA

LMO survey: 65% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President

By City News Service

If Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti chooses to run for president, he need not worry about a local backlash, as a majority of county residents said in a new survey released Friday that they would support the move.

The question was asked of Los Angeles County residents as part of a survey conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"At least in his hometown, Mayor Garcetti polls strongly as a potential candidate for president," said Fernando Guerra, director of the center. "Naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles. But as of today, he'd have L.A.'s backing."

After taking a number of steps that some political observers have seen as preliminary maneuvering to running for president in 2020, Garcetti has not ruled out a presidential run when asked directly by reporters over the last few months — but he also has not ruled out a run for governor of California in 2018.

Garcetti, a Democrat, recently visited New Hampshire to support a mayoral candidate in Manchester.

The visit to the site of the nation's first presidential primary during the August trip also included cocktails in the Hamptons at the estate of billionaire Ronald Perelman, a major political donor.

The mayor also recently appeared at Democratic Party events in Wisconsin and at the Center for American Progress' Ideas Conference in Washington, D.C.

According to the survey, 63 percent of the 914 respondents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti launching a bid for the White House.

Support for a Garcetti presidential run was strongest among Latinos (73 percent), voters aged 30-44 (69 percent), and those earning less than \$40,000 a year (74 percent). Those with advanced graduate degrees or earning more than \$100,000 annually were the only groups mostly opposed.

Even among residents who self-identified as conservative, 51 said they supported a Garcetti candidacy.

Daily News

Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims

By Christy Smith

Harvey, Irma, Jose, Katia and, now, Maria. Headline-snatching hurricanes and tropical thunderstorms are rapidly becoming a dystopian staple.

With Texas recovering from the devastating effects of Harvey, Floridians reeling after Irma and Puerto Rico still underwater from Maria, Americans are justifiably consumed by the current hurricane hype. As we send our well-wishes, the whole nation gives our sympathy and unwavering support to the victims of these natural disasters.

Unfortunately — as is often the case with the volatile nature of news — as one issue receives justified attention and coverage, others fade into obscurity while still desperately requiring public attention and administrative oversight. This has quickly become Porter Ranch's reality.

As the largest natural gas disaster in U.S. history, the 2015 Porter Ranch gas leak was by no means an insignificant issue.

Porter Ranch cradles the 36,000-acre Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, essentially a subterranean warehouse capable of containing up to 80 billion cubic feet of natural gas. On the morning of Oct. 23, 2015, a ruptured casing on one of the wells led to a torrential outpouring of methane into the atmosphere.

The emissions were so massive that NASA reported the damage could be detected and viewed from space.

Approximately 8,000 families were forced to relocate at the time, with local schools shut down and business suffering from consumer flight.

While methane is not lethal to the same degree as carbon monoxide, medical research points to it having a variety of chronic health consequences. Known to cause bloody noses, nausea, and headaches to vomiting and rashes, methane is also considered highly dangerous due to its odorless composition, which prevents easy detection of a leak.

With its capability to trap radiation, trapping heat in the atmosphere, methane is also a damaging contributor to climate change and, on the scale of Porter Ranch's leak, deadly. The Environmental Defense Fund estimated that by mid-December the Porter Ranch leak's methane emissions were on par with 7 million new cars or six coal-burning factories. Over the span of a four-month ordeal, nearly 100,000 metric tons of methane were released into the atmosphere, which effectively doubled the emissions rate of the entire Los Angeles basin.

Indeed, Porter Ranch was on the lips of some of the world's leading figures in Paris last year as they debated and disagreed about the environmental impacts of climate change. L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, before the U.S. commitment to and subsequent withdrawal from the Paris agreement, lamented the crisis as a "natural disaster."

However, it seems to be far more than just that. More likely, this was also a human disaster. Since then, the Southern California Gas Co. has been buried in lawsuits surrounding corporate negligence, and has paid up to \$465 million in costs associated with relocations and cleanup.

While the corporation undoubtedly feels it is doing a sufficient amount to cover reparations for this catastrophic blunder, recent developments are worrying.

A medical study that was being conducted as a follow-up to the gas leak under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was abruptly blocked, because Dr. Nordella saw his employment as medical director of Porter Ranch Quality Care terminated. Since the leak, Nordella had been tracking different developments in more than 100 patients who had been affected by the methane leak. Nordella, as reported by the Daily News, said he is concerned these developments could disrupt the continuity of care for the patients he sees.

Recently, state regulators made a critical mistake in declaring the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility safe enough to resume natural gas injections, ignoring the concerns of doctors, local residents and former Aliso Canyon employees. With public interest in Porter Ranch waning, the corporate and regulatory negligence, environmental consequences and health crises that caused and have followed the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history could very well dwindle into obscurity. Without adamant attentiveness, the thousands of victims affected by this ordeal, people who desperately require attention, will not be heard. We need to keep Aliso Canyon closed.

My News LA

LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people

By City News Service

City officials Friday released the final guidelines for a new incentive-based program for affordable housing production in Los Angeles near transit lines that was approved by voters last November as part of Measure JJJ.

The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if requesting changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules for projects, but also directed the city to develop the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program.

The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.

"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: end the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that. The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."

The program creates a new system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within one-half mile of a major transit stop.

The program also grants higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects are allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.

"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.

"Along with other recent actions we've taken to increase affordable housing for all Angelenos, we can look forward to a more vibrant, livable and sustainable Los Angeles," he said.

Daily News

LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines

By City News Service

Final guidelines were released Friday for a new incentive-based program approved by voters in November to encourage the production of affordable housing near Los Angeles transit lines.

The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if the builder requests changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules.

The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.

"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: End the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that."

The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."

The program is designed to create a system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within a half-mile of a major transit stop.

The program would also grant higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects would be allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.

"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.

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LA Times

Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California

By Ron Gon Lin

Seismic safety experts long have warned that brittle concrete frame buildings pose a particularly deadly risk during a major earthquake.

But a horrifying video taken during this week's magnitude 7.1 Mexico quake may do more to highlight the risk than years of reports and studies.

In it, sirens blare, utility poles sway. Then in the background, a building wobbles. Concrete starts falling out of a ground-floor column. Then the columns flex, and the upper floors come crashing down, sinking into a cloud of dust. "¡Dios mío! ¡Dios mío!" a woman is heard saying. "My God! My God!"

The crumbled Enrique Rebsamen school in Mexico City — a three-story structure where at least 25 died, including 21 students — was made of concrete, as were many other structures that fell to the ground.

While they may be stout and muscular in appearance, concrete buildings without a robust level of steel reinforcement can see their columns peel off in chunks and then explode when exposed to violent side-to-side shaking.

In Los Angeles, dozens died when concrete structures tumbled in the 1971 magnitude 6.1 Sylmar earthquake. Several who perished were on a newly built hospital campus. And when two concrete office towers collapsed in 2011 during a 6.3 temblor in Christchurch, New Zealand, the 133 people who died accounted for more than 70% of the final toll.

After the Sylmar quake, officials quickly updated building requirements to add more steel reinforcement to new concrete buildings. But there was no systematic effort by many governments around the world to address the defect in existing concrete buildings.

'IT'S SUCH A TREMENDOUS IMPACT'

Mexico quake shows what seismic experts have long warned

Concrete buildings dot the California landscape, a popular form of construction during the postwar boom years.

But cities are just now beginning to grapple with how to make these buildings safer.

In 2015, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti pushed through a landmark law mandating retrofits of concrete buildings, hoping to avoid a catastrophe when the next earthquake comes. The city estimates there are about 1,500 such structures.

The law requires that once owners are given an order to evaluate a building, they will have 25 years to retrofit it if a study determines the structure is indeed vulnerable. City officials are in the process of identifying buildings that would be subject to the law.

A couple of other cities have done the same.

Santa Monica earlier this year published a list of vulnerable buildings — concrete, steel and wood-frame apartments — and enacted a new law requiring them to be evaluated and retrofitted if found to be vulnerable. West Hollywood also has enacted retrofit laws for the same classes of buildings.

Garcetti and seismic safety experts say the catastrophic images from Mexico this week will raise awareness of the dangers.

"Any building owner who thinks they should sit back and relax for the next 20 years should view that video. And let's figure out a way to get to work now," Garcetti said in an interview. "What's more expensive? The loss of your entire property — let alone the loss of lives — or the investment in making sure that no earthquake of that size will destroy your building or kill anyone?"

The collapsed school is a case in point. California-based structural engineers who looked at a Times photo of the school's remains said the collapse was consistent with the failure of a brittle concrete building.

Structural engineer David Cocke, vice president of the Oakland-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, pointed out how a concrete column at the school can be seen broken in half — a clean break. He said there should have been more steel reinforcement in the concrete that would have allowed the column to bend when shaken, not break like a piece of chalk.

"When they break in half like that, then you've lost it all," Cocke said.

Structural engineer Kit Miyamoto, a member of the California Seismic Safety Commission, said the photo "looked like the columns popped out of the building ... there's no adequate reinforcement. It's exactly the problem of nonductile [brittle] concrete."

And the video showing the concrete building collapsing, Miyamoto said, has "such a tremendous impact. Most people think that they are helpless, it's too expensive to fix. That's a myth. This video can defeat that myth. Evidence exists, people are dying and we know exactly what to do."

"Actually being able to physically see the process — I think it's incredibly effective. It explains what a lot of the issues are," seismologist Lucy Jones said. "Concrete buildings seem sturdy ... and being able to see directly why that's not true has got to start."

To be sure, some buildings in developing nations are not as well-engineered as some buildings in California, Cocke said. But "these buildings are not that dissimilar to some of our worst buildings. We're going to have failures on some of our older, nonductile concrete buildings that can be catastrophic — when we have intense shaking."

The video, Cocke said, also shows the threat of buildings with flimsy first stories, where relatively skinny columns hold up heavier upper floors. The so-called "soft-story" flaw is found in many California apartments, where the ground floor is built to house carports, garages or storefronts; flimsy supports can snap and collapse in shaking.

Other cities are looking at the issue.

Jones is now working with the Southern California Assn. of Governments to help cities come up with seismic retrofit legislation to propose to their elected leaders. Jones said Long Beach is looking to hire a consultant to create an inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings. And Ventura has directed its city staff to work with Jones and SCAG to develop an approach for unretrofitted brick buildings and wood apartment buildings with flimsy first stories.

The brittle concrete defect gained considerable attention after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake caused the collapse of the newly constructed Olive View Medical Center.

Several other concrete structures came tumbling down in that earthquake, in which 52 people in all were killed as a result

or concrete structure failure.

Brittle concrete buildings also collapsed in the magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994, including a Bullock's department store and Kaiser Permanente medical office.

In addition to stabilizing concrete structures, efforts focused on other vulnerable buildings have shown signs of success. Los Angeles' 1981 law requiring retrofitting of 8,000 brick buildings saved lives: Although 60 people died in the Northridge quake, none of them were in brick structures. L.A. and a handful of other cities in California are now also requiring retrofits for apartment buildings with weak first stories.

Retrofitting concrete buildings is considered more costly. The fixes could cost \$1 million or more per structure. Occupants may have to move out during the renovation at an additional cost.

Yet a seismic retrofit is a bargain compared with the cost of replacing a collapsed building, Miyamoto said, which will be unusable and unable to generate rental income for owners. "There is no excuse to not do it," Miyamoto said. "It's spending 5% to 10% of the replacement cost to address the seismic strengthening."

Two concrete buildings at the San Fernando Veterans Administration Hospital crumbled in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, killing 49 people. (Bruce Cox / Los Angeles Times) The Pyne Gould Corp. building collapsed when the magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011. It was built in the 1960s, before the adoption of modern seismic standards for concrete buildings. (Hannah Johnston / Getty Images)

The experience in this week's Mexico earthquake also illustrates another fact: Just because your home or workplace survived a previous earthquake doesn't mean it will endure the next one.

A common sentiment in Los Angeles, as in Mexico City, was that buildings that survived past earthquakes were invulnerable to shaking. That's wrong.

Despite several devastating quakes — in 1933 in Long Beach, 1971 in Sylmar and 1994 in Northridge — many vulnerable buildings constructed during Southern California's rapid expansion in the 20th century simply have not had to face the intense shaking that scientists know can happen during an earthquake.

The last magnitude 7.8 quake that struck Southern California hit in 1857, long before the modern era of Los Angeles.

"I hear quite often: 'Hey, we went through the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We're OK.' Well, that's a false sense of security," Miyamoto said. "This earthquake proved it. Doing well in one earthquake doesn't mean you'll do well in the next."

At its closest point, the San Andreas fault is just 30 miles from downtown L.A. That closeness means the tallest skyscrapers in the nation's second-largest city could be quite vulnerable during a megaquake.

A U.S. Geological Survey simulation co-written by Jones and published in 2008 said it was plausible that five steel high-rise buildings throughout Southern California — whether in downtown L.A., Orange County or San Bernardino — could come tumbling down should a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strike the San Andreas.

After the Northridge earthquake, a flaw was discovered in a common type of steel building that showed how the frame can fracture in an earthquake; Los Angeles and most other cities in California have not passed laws requiring retrofits to repair this design flaw. (Garcetti on Friday said L.A. building officials are studying Santa Monica's new law passed this year requiring retrofits of steel buildings.)

"We don't really know what's going to happen to those really tall buildings. We've never put them through a really big earthquake," Jones said.

Downtown L.A.'s shortest buildings also haven't been tested with extreme shaking, Jones said. At no point in modern history has downtown Los Angeles endured the kind of intense shaking that the San Fernando Valley did during the Northridge quake.

"Your Northridge-type earthquake is about as bad as it gets for small buildings like a single-family house or a small apartment complex," Jones said. But while places like Northridge and Chatsworth have endured what is close to the worst-case shaking, places a bit farther away — like Pasadena, Hollywood and downtown L.A. — have not.

"Even Santa Monica" has not, she said, despite the intensity of damage in that coastal city during the '94 quake. "The reason there was so much damage there was because of how old the buildings are," Jones said.

Different earthquakes will test different buildings.

A sharp magnitude 7 earthquake on an urban fault that runs through the L.A. metropolitan region — such as the Newport-Inglewood, Whittier or Sierra Madre faults — will test short buildings like no other earthquake in the modern era, Jones said.

Meanwhile, a magnitude 8 on the San Andreas fault likely will spare the worst from striking single-family homes in places farther from the fault, including the L.A. Basin. But the same megaquake could result in "collapses of high-rises at relatively large distances from the fault," Jones said.

Miyamoto said L.A. is on the right track in retrofit policy, but should consider accelerating the deadline for retrofit requirement.

"We should go faster," he said. "The earthquake will not wait for us."

ABC Los Angeles

Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city

By Adrienne Alpert

The Mexico City earthquake turns attention to Los Angeles preparedness, and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is focused on both an early warning system and an emergency plan all residents should have.

While the county has a response team in Mexico, the city's firefighters are home from Houston and Florida hurricane response, "one of the largest and longest deployments in American history." They may go to Puerto Rico next.

Southern California has earthquake sensors, and other parts of the state are expanding their systems. Appearing on Eyewitness Newsmakers, Garcetti said by the end of next year, we should have a phone app sending the earthquake early warning. In the meantime, the mayor said, "You need an analog plan in a digital era." He said every family and workplace should drill where to go and what to do if communications are lost.

North Korea's renewed nuclear threat, now saying it will test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, is very worrying to the mayor, who said Pyongyang may have the capability to reach Los Angeles. He said the city is relying on the Department of Defense and federal authorities for information.

Viewers wrote in questions for this Ask the Mayor program. One asked how citizens can get involved in the 2028 Olympics. There is a volunteer section on the website www.la28.org. Since the announcement L.A. will be a host city in 11 years, 14,000 people have already signed up. The mayor was pleased the promised Olympic money for Los Angeles youth sports is coming in soon so "a 7 or 8-year-old can compete in her backyard in 2028."

Many viewer questions focused on affordable housing and homelessness. Garcetti is pushing the city council to approve his linkage fee. It would charge luxury home developers a fee that would fund affordable housing. Developers say it will drive up housing costs even more.

To viewers who say the city is too crowded already, the mayor said he's sympathetic to preserving neighborhoods, but density needs to increase in transit corridors. He said rents are high because the city hasn't built enough, and density has to go somewhere. Using new funding sources, Garcetti talked about tripling the pace of affordable housing.

See more from his interview below:

Is Los Angeles sending any rescue teams to Mexico?

Yes. We have on the ground firefighters from Los Angeles County who are one out of two counties in the country who are authorized to leave the country when we have foreign aid. Our Los Angeles city firefighters were both in Houston and in Florida. One of the largest, if not the longest, deployments ever in American history. They may go to Puerto Rico. We just see so many events happening in so many places.

What is L.A. doing about an early warning system?

Well, earthquake safety has been a strong priority of mine. First, passing the toughest ordinance to strengthen our buildings that collapsed in 1994 and in 1971. But second, we do have an early warning system now on the ground, which is more sensors here than anywhere in the country has funded. We have it in many schools. By the end of next year, we think we will have it so that it can push to people's phones using cutting-edge technology so that we can get alerts that can save us precious seconds of time to get under a table, protect our family, protect our friends. But the last thing is people need a plan, and I keep saying this. I'm a broken record. I think especially for new generation of folks who just think our equipment will help us, you need an analog plan in a digital era. Where you're going to go whether you're at work, you're at home, in neighborhood, what's the safest place to be? Practice with your children. Practice with your family. Practice at work because that is literally what will save your life.

When the plan rolls out and gets to our phones next year, that would be just for earthquakes in the Los Angeles area. Is the West Coast system still waiting for funding?

Yes, it's actually for Southern California, so not just L.A., but we have sensors throughout Southern California. Northern California hopes to build theirs and to catch up in other parts of the state. And then yes, to link it in to the western United States as well, but for now the stuff that is here in Southern California. We will get those warnings, and we want to tie it in, like they do in Japan, to things like elevators that can shut down, that can go to the next floor, let people off so you're not stuck in between floors. Some of our subways or light rail would stop so that they don't derail in the middle of something like that and lose lives. So we're going to also tie in the technology, not just the sensors.

North Korea has threatened a nuclear strike test over the ocean. Is L.A. doing anything? Can the city do anything to prepare should any missiles get launched our way?

It is very worrying. It seems like the technology is probably there for North Korea to reach the western United States, the West Coast, maybe even as far down as Los Angeles. We monitor very closely. We're in touch with the Department of Defense and our federal authorities. I've been in the Navy for 12 years working in the Pacific fleet area, so I am well aware of this threat. I hope that our diplomatic means and sanctions can be exhausted. Sometimes rhetoric can ramp things up, and it can be crazy. I'm hoping that we can ramp down the rhetoric, figure out a way to be strong, to defend our interest so to use whatever means we can to make sure it doesn't end up as a tragedy.

Do we have any kind of defensive system here in Los Angeles?

Not that the city of Los Angeles owns. The Department of Defense does have a defense system for the western United States.

Vickie Mays of Los Angeles asks, "The 2028 Olympics is a great time for a planning process that can benefit not only sports, but education, neighborhood development and civic engagement. How can the average person get involved?"

We're so excited the Olympics are coming home. Just last week I was in Lima, Peru, and it's going to be the third time and only the third city to have that, and what I was blown away in the lead up is that we had 14,000 people sign up to volunteer already even though it's 11 years in the future. Our plan is to use that volunteer base to get engaged, to get involved, to do exactly what our viewer was saying, to adopt a school, help us with homelessness, clean up a neighborhood, be a coach and help maybe train a 6 or 7-year-old who could maybe train who could compete in her backyard here in the 2028 Olympics. Our first payment from the International Olympic Committee because we negotiated so well to have dollars for youth sports will start coming in the beginning of next year, so in 2018 we will start to see the fees in city's parks lessened, make it universal access to all sports for kids. I want to work with high schools and have that baton pass so that a kid could get involved in swimming at 5 years old and by the time they're 18 can have great coaching, great opportunities without having to worry about the cost.

Lorie Rust from Palmdale asks, "We don't want a sanctuary city, and we don't want our tax dollars used on illegal

immigrants. We would like the mayor to reflect the views of his constituents, not just a certain sect or political party." Everybody has a definition of what a sanctuary city is. I bet under her definition, which is a place that protects criminals and if you're an undocumented citizen bonus points. We're not that. But what we are and have been since Daryl Gates was our police chief, five different police chiefs, and I guess I'm too pro-cops to stop listening to them, is that we have a system that does not deputize essentially our cops to be immigration officials. That is the federal government's responsibility not ours. To build trust in our communities since for instance we just took down MS-13 in a huge two-year long operation, very dangerous gang, we were able to do that because we have trust in those communities where some people are documented and some aren't, that LAPD is somebody they can trust and tell them 'oh that is where the bad guy lives' or 'hey check it out over there in that apartment.' It makes us all safer when people come out of the shadows and are able to report crime and participate with LAPD.

City Council wants to declare L.A. as city of sanctuary, not as a sanctuary city. Will you support that if that vote takes place?

Yes, I've used that term and I always say that if being a city of sanctuary means that our cops do their job and the feds do theirs and we abide by the Constitution because we can't hold people longer than the Constitution allows, then yes that's what we are and proudly so. But I think that there is a misconception. A lot of people think a sanctuary city are mayors in the country saying "Please come here if you are a criminal." And that couldn't be further from the truth. We all want to get the bad criminals, and I'm worried that our federal policies are casting a wide net now. Not catching the bad sharks in the sea but are instead picking up a bunch of fish that are causing no harm.

John C. of Long Beach asks, "When and where will affordable housing be built? How many single units?"

Well it's being built already. You can go to the housing community investment department in our city to look where it is. We have a regular list. You can sign up to get on the waiting lists as well to get in the housing. It's not enough though. It's one of the reasons I am pushing our city council to pass as soon as possible. It's in its last phases so viewers can call their council members. Something called a linkage fee so whenever we see one of these large, luxury condominiums or apartment buildings come up in Downtown or Koreatown they'd have to pay a fee that we would then put aside to then build affordable housing for the rest of us, something that would subsidize literally thousands of units throughout our city. Theresa Ramirez of Los Angeles asks, "Why do you support the overbuilding of housing units in Los Angeles, and specifically in the Echo Park, Frog Town areas? Our streets, roads, and freeways cannot handle the added traffic congestion that is caused by building for more units on a lot that used to have one unit."

"I think housing needs to be built, but it does need to be built in the right place. There is no one neighborhood or one place that I say automatically give a green light. So I'm sympathetic with people who want to preserve the single-family character of neighborhoods, but the tradeoff is that we have to along those corridors where we are investing public transportation, along the Wilshire corridor, places like the Crenshaw-LAX line that we are building now. Density has to go someplace and if we build nothing like we did in the '90s, it's not that people don't come here. They make it even worse in the traffic in the neighborhoods because they cram in what looks like one home might have four families in it. We need to build good, quality, affordable housing, but I do think we should put it where there is transit and public transportation so we don't have bottlenecks in all of our neighborhoods."

Phoenicia of Los Angeles asks, "With the current increase in the homeless population in Los Angeles, what steps are being taken to house this population, as well as housing for displaced families due to the increase in rent prices?"

It's my No. 1 concern. It's where I spend the most time. I have a war room that I've convened in City Hall where I spend hours each week on this. We, thanks to the voters, have HHH dollars which are 10,000 units worth of new housing that we will build, thanks to the voters of Los Angeles. Measure H which was countywide will also give us additional dollars to help with subsidizing and things like rapid rehousing, which is a fancy way of saying if you're on the verge of homelessness and you call the county or the 511 service they have there, you can get assistance.

And now we've seen Hepatitis A starting to show up in Los Angeles.

It really exploded in San Diego, but there's a couple cases here. I've really encouraged our county officials and our fire departments working for them to declare a public health emergency before it spread widely, especially in the encampment areas of Downtown and other places. We're giving our first responders and others who live on the street access to getting vaccinations as well. It's much worse down South, we saw it also in Santa Cruz, but we want to stop it before it spreads here.

Washington Post

It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA

By Mark Maske

It took more than two decades for the NFL to return to Los Angeles. The league's explanation during much of that time was that it wanted to make certain that when it did go back, it would be done in a way that would ensure lasting success. It took all of two weekends into the first season with two L.A. franchises to make it fair to wonder whether the league's decision to permit the Chargers to join the Rams in Los Angeles was misguided.

"No one is covering what a massive mistake that the league and Chargers have made by moving this team to LA," Joe Banner, a former executive for the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns, wrote this week on Twitter.

The concerns bubbled to the surface after the Chargers drew a crowd of just 25,381 to the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., for last Sunday's loss to the Miami Dolphins in their home opener. It's one thing to play in a tiny, 27,000-seat temporary home. It's another thing to fail to fill it.

The Rams drew 56,612 to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last Sunday for their loss to the Washington Redskins. That made for a combined attendance of 81,993 for the two NFL franchises in Los Angeles last weekend. The USC-

Texas game last Saturday at the Coliseum drew 64,714.

"Did we do the wrong thing with the Chargers? It's probably way too early to say that," a high-ranking executive with one NFL team said. "Let's see how it plays out. Let's see how they both do when they get into the new stadium. But I guess it does make you start to think a little bit."

The league likewise is taking a long-term view.

"They knew going in this wasn't a one-game or one-year solution where they could turn a light on and get the support they expect to get moving toward the opening of the new [stadium]," Joe Lockhart, the NFL's executive vice president of communications and public affairs, said during a conference call with reporters this week. "We remain confident the city of Los Angeles can support two franchises and committed toward making that happen."

The \$2.6 billion stadium the Rams and Chargers will share in Inglewood, Calif., is scheduled to open in 2020. It is clear that in the meantime, the Rams and Chargers have work to do.

The owners voted in January 2016 to allow the Rams to move from St. Louis to L.A. and gave the Chargers the option to join them. Some within the sport thought that the option was granted as a consolation prize to Dean Spanos, the chairman of the Chargers, by owners who respected Spanos but preferred the Inglewood stadium proposal by Rams owner Stan Kroenke to the Carson project put forth by the Chargers and Oakland Raiders. The Chargers exercised their L.A. option in January of this year after failing to secure public funding for a new stadium in San Diego.

But was the NFL simply leaving San Diego because it could not secure a stadium solution there, rather than putting a second team in Los Angeles because it actually believed that was a good idea? It's an interesting question. Eric Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles, told "The Dan Patrick Show" this month that he would have been fine with the Chargers remaining in San Diego and the Rams being the lone L.A. franchise.

"We embrace any team that comes," Garcetti said in that radio interview. "We're certainly happy to have the Chargers in L.A. But I think we could have been happy with just one [team], too."

The Chargers have another chance this Sunday when they host the Kansas City Chiefs at StubHub. The biggest number to come out of that game won't be quarterback Philip Rivers's passing yardage or pass rusher Joey Bosa's sack total. It will be the attendance figure.

"We know going into this new market, it's going to take time to really authentically ingratiate yourself," John Spanos, the Chargers' president of football operations and a son of Dean Spanos, said in training camp this summer. "It's something that's going to take time. And that's something that we plan to do. And we also know that in an L.A. market, nothing's ever given to you."

"We don't show up expecting a red carpet, expecting anything to be given to us. We know that anything we gain, we have to earn. And so that's our approach. We have to work hard and earn the community's respect and earn their trust, and we look forward to doing that."

Daily News

Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom

By John Phillips

With supermajorities in both houses of the state Legislature, the governor's mansion and every statewide constitutional office on the ballot, there isn't much that California Democrats can't get if they want it badly enough.

In the most recent legislative session the state's ruling class voted to make California a sanctuary state, jacked up fuel and energy costs in the name of curbing global warming, and gutted the spirit of Megan's Law by allowing convicted sex offenders to get their name off the required registration list.

They even approved a measure that would designate the *Augustynolophus morrisi*, a duck-billed dinosaur that roamed California 66 million years ago, as the state's official dinosaur.

No word yet if 79-year-old Gov. Jerry Brown will resist the impulse to designate himself and sign it.

In the midst of all this, and without much fanfare, the state Legislature passed a bill that could have a serious impact on the 2020 presidential race.

Last Friday, Sacramento lawmakers voted to change the state's primary date from June to March, which would allocate California's massive number of delegates just after the nation's first contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The theory behind the move is that the nominees of both parties will likely be chosen before our traditional June primary, and this is the only way to get candidates to pay attention to our concerns.

In expressing his support for the change, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla told CNN, "By having an earlier voice for candidates of all parties, for that matter, would make the candidates pay attention to issues that Californians care about, like health care access, like environmental protection, like diversity — not just talking immigration issues but workforce issues."

The conventional spin is also that this would elevate the chances of a California Democrat winning the Democratic nomination, as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown have all been rumored to be mulling presidential bids.

Heck, even Congresswoman Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, has been spending time raising money and campaigning for fellow Democrats in New Hampshire, which, of course, is home to the first-in-the-nation primary — although to be fair she has always spent a lot of time outside of her district, she doesn't even live there.

But in their rush to get a California Democrat in the White House, I would warn Golden State lawmakers about the law of unintended consequences.

Because of smartphones, the internet and other forms of technology, the definition of what is "local" has changed

fundamentally. The regionalism that used to exist in the country is not as pronounced as it used to be.

Let's not forget that Donald Trump beat U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in the 2016 Florida primary, and would have crushed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, had he stayed in the race. Also, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton easily defeated Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state of his birth, New York.

In my estimation, moving up the primary in the nation's most populated state would be most beneficial to a celebrity Democratic candidate. The Democratic field will likely be large and filled with a bunch of politicians that nobody has ever heard of. If a Michael Moore, Rosie O'Donnell, Tom Hanks or Alec Baldwin jumped in the race, they would instantly start out with a much higher name identification than some random governor or member of congress.

It would also create space for a bored billionaire, like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg or enviro-sugar daddy Tom Steyer to jump in and buy themselves relevance in the race.

Whether it's "March Madness" or "June gloom," the fact remains, the three Democrats who will not be helped by the date change are Eric Garcetti, Kamala Harris and Jerry Brown.

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Golden Age Latin American Films Return To Downtown LA For Screening Series

http://laist.com/2017/09/22/cine_de_espanol.php

More Tickets, Longer Hours For Kusama Show At The Broad

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/arts_and_entertainment/more-tickets-longer-hours-for-kusama-show-at-the-broad/article_0b091a48-9fba-11e7-8134-3f5937da2e74.html

Economic Development:

LA's Popular Silverlake Ramen Confirms Big New Franchising Plans

<https://la.eater.com/2017/9/22/16350572/silver-lake-ramen-santa-monica-franchise-plans>

Grand Avenue Project: Take a new look at Frank Gehry's Bunker Hill towers

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16350614/frank-gehry-grand-avenue-downtown-renderings>

Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice:

We'll all pay price for California's tunnel vision on water policy

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/well-all-pay-price-for-californias-tunnel-vision-on-water-policy-susan-shelley/>

LA's palm trees are dying and it's changing the city's famous skyline

<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-me-palm-trees-dying-skyline-los-angeles/>

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

LAUSD to name new school board president in wake of criminal charges against Ref Rodriguez

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/lausd-to-name-new-board-president-in-wake-of-criminal-charges-against-ref-rodriguez/>

LA school board needs new president after old one charged with crimes

<https://mynews1a.com/education/2017/09/22/la-school-board-needs-new-president-after-old-one-charged-with-crimes/>

Monica Garcia is likely pick for next school board president

<http://laschoolreport.com/exclusive-monica-garcia-is-likely-pick-for-next-school-board-president/>

These ten LA high schools are the best at getting their graduates to college

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-edu-best-high-schools-college-20170922.htmlstory.html>

Little known Westwood policies impact student life

<http://dailybruin.com/2017/09/22/little-known-westwood-policies-frequently-impact-students-village-life/>

Opinion: LAUSD has to face health, pension costs now

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/opinion/20170922/lausd-has-to-face-health-pension-costs-now>

Homelessness & Poverty:

Activists protest 33 story apartment tower on the edge of LA's skid row

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-skid-row-tower-20170922-htmlstory.html>

Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights & Equity:

Echo Park Pastor Detained During Immigration Appointment Released Nearly 2 Months Later

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Echo-Park-Pastor-Detained-Release-446835973.html>

Personnel & Animal Welfare:

Got an elephant you need to move? Here's how the LA Zoo and others safely transport large animals

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/got-an-elephant-you-need-to-move-heres-how-the-la-zoo-and-others-safely-transport-large-animals/>

Public Safety:

Off duty LAPD officer killed in Porter Ranch crash identified

<http://abc7.com/off-duty-lapd-officer-killed-in-porter-ranch-crash-idd/2442435/>

LAPD officer, 34, of Canyon Country, dies in Porter Ranch motorcycle crash

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/lapd-officer-34-of-canyon-country-dies-in-porter-ranch-motorcycle-crash/>

LAPD officer won't face new trial on accusation of filing false police report

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-false-report-20170922-story.html>

Gang member arrested in fatal beating of 27 year old man in Koreatown, LAPD says

<http://abc7.com/gang-member-arrested-in-fatal-beating-of-27-year-old-man-in-koreatown-lapd-says/2444011/>

Homeless Man Sentenced To Life In Prison For Using Butcher Knife To Kill South LA Woman Who Took Him In

<http://ktla.com/2017/09/22/homeless-man-who-used-butcher-knife-to-fatally-stab-woman-who-took-him-in-sentenced-to-life-in-prison/>

Homeless killer sentence for butcher knife apartment murder

<https://mynewsla.com/crime/2017/09/22/homeless-killer-sentenced-for-butcher-knife-apartment-murder/>

Possible stolen vehicle suspect tackled, arrested after high speed chase in South LA

<http://abc7.com/suspect-arrested-after-high-speed-chase-in-south-la/2444847/>

Man Arrested After Barricade, Chase Through San Fernando Valley

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Police-Chase-Vehicle-in-San-Fernando-Valley-446989773.html>

Armed Robbery Suspect In Standoff With LAPD In Newhall Surrenders After Two Others Are Taken Into Custody

<http://ktla.com/2017/09/22/lapd-pursue-2-armed-robbery-suspects/>

2 armed robbery suspects arrested after chase, barricade in Santa Clarita

<http://abc7.com/armed-robbery-suspects-arrested-in-santa-clarita/2445045/>

Rash of burglaries has Guitar Merchant in Canoga Park signing the blues

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/rash-of-burglaries-has-guitar-merchant-in-canoga-park-singing-the-blues/>

LAPD Homicide Investigating After Man Found Dead In DTLA Parking Lot

<http://ktla.com/2017/09/22/lapd-homicide-investigating-after-man-found-dead-in-dtla-parking-lot/>

Man Found Dead In Downtown Los Angeles Parking Lot Suffered Blunt Force Trauma To Head
<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Man-Believed-to-Have-Suffered-Blunt-Force-Trauma-to-Head-Found-Dead-DTLA-Parking-Lot-446745553.html>

Man Found Beaten To Death In Downtown LA Parking Lot
http://laist.com/2017/09/22/downtown_beating_death.php

Homeless Man Beaten To Death In Downtown LA
<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/09/22/homeless-man-beaten-to-death/>

Hunt for Harbor City armed robbers: Can you help?
<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/09/22/hunt-for-harbor-city-armed-burglars-can-you-help/>

Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations:

How LA is thinking it will update your voting experience
<https://www.scp.org/programs/take-two/2017/09/22/59308/how-la-is-thinking-it-will-update-your-voting-expe/>

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People Love John Wayne Airport And Hate LAX, According To New Satisfaction Rankings
http://laist.com/2017/09/22/lax_john_wayne_rankings.php

LAX Ranked Second To Last In Passenger Satisfaction Study
<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/LAX-Ranked-Second-to-Last-in-Passenger-Satisfaction-Study-446662483.html>

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The Crenshaw Line Will open in 2019-how are residents feeling about it?
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16347450/crenshaw-line-lax-leimert-park-metro-development>

The far out future 1960s planners envisioned for LA transit
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16229310/never-built-transit-metro>

7 transit projects that could transform LA
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16346516/metro-bus-rail-transit-projects>

Chatting with Los Angeles transit expert Ethan Elkind
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/21/16257922/live-chat-transit-ethan-elkind>

Metro Studying Several Train Station Change: Claremont, Northridge, El Monte and More
<http://la.streetsblog.org/2017/09/22/metro-studying-several-train-station-changes-claremont-northridge-el-monte-and-more/>

City of Los Angeles:

LA Marijuana Maps Show how Pot Shops Will Be Squeezed By Available Turf
<http://www.laweekly.com/news/cannabis-business-fights-for-more-turf-in-los-angeles-8676851>

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Riki Esquer

Executive Assistant to Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

Fwd: MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 8:43 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti says he won't run for California governor

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-garcetti-governor-20171029-story.html>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for CA governor

<http://abc7.com/garcetti-not-running-for-governor/2581799/>

LA Mayor Garcetti Won't Run For California Gov-Opening Up 2020 Possibilities

<http://forward.com/fast-forward/386366/la-mayor-garcetti-wont-run-for-california-govopening-up-2020-possibilities/>

LA mayor announces he won't run for California governor

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/357739-la-mayor-not-run-for-california-governor>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti: No plans to run for California governor

<http://www.pe.com/2017/10/29/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-no-plans-to-run-for-california-governor/>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

<http://www.foxla.com/news/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-says-no-to-run-for-governor>

The Surprising Story Of Republican Towns Going Green

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/republican-mayors-green-energy_us_59f3843ee4b07fdc5fbe1a19

LA Times

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti says he won't run for California governor

By Dakota Smith

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he won't run for governor of California.

"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in L.A.," he said on Twitter. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti's announcement is not considered a major surprise, given that the field to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018 is filled with Democratic heavyweights including Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Since he was reelected as mayor in a landslide earlier this year, there have been questions about where Garcetti would go next. The governor's race had been one option. Another was running for U.S. Senate, but that was before Dianne Feinstein announced she would seek another term.

Some have suggested Garcetti could be a presidential candidate in 2020.

The mayor has been talking to Democratic donors and national political reporters and visited New Hampshire, the first primary state. But he has not officially announced an interest in running for president.

But he has not shut down speculation either.

"I think all the rules are off," he told a Wisconsin TV interviewer during a June visit to the Midwestern swing state. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is."

On Sunday, Garcetti said on Twitter: "I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together."

ABC Los Angeles

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for CA governor

By Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has decided not to run for California governor, he confirmed on Sunday.

Garcetti, now in his second term as mayor, made the announcement on Twitter, saying he has more work he wishes to do in Los Angeles.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California. I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles," Garcetti tweeted.

"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA."

"I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go @Dodgers! -EG"

Garcetti had been mentioned as a leading potential contender for governor in 2018, but had not taken any substantial

speculation about a white house run in 2020.

He was re-elected mayor earlier this year with 81 percent of the vote.

Other potential leading Democrats eyeing the governor's race include Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, State Treasurer John Chiang, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, former Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin and billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer.

On the Republican side, Assemblyman Travis Allen of Huntington Beach and venture capitalist John Cox are planning to run.

Forward

LA Mayor Garcetti Won't Run For California Gov-Opening Up 2020 Possibilities

By Aiden Pink

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not run for governor of California in 2018—thereby raising questions about whether the next campaign he wants to run is for president in 2020.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," Garcetti wrote on Twitter. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles. We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA. I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go Dodgers!"

Garcetti, who has served as mayor of the United States's second-largest city since 2013, has recently traveled to states that are significant for presidential contenders — New Hampshire, home of the first presidential primary, and Wisconsin, one of the most important swing states. He is also scheduled to travel to South Carolina, home of the first primary in the South.

No sitting mayor has ever been nominated for president.

Garcetti, 46, is Los Angeles' first Jewish mayor and second Mexican-American mayor. He was reelected in March with over 80% of the vote.

The Hill

LA mayor announces he won't run for California governor

By Max Greenwood

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) announced on Sunday that he will not run for California governor in 2018.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California. I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles," Garcetti wrote in a tweet.

"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA."

"I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go [Dodgers]!" he added from the official Garcetti for Mayor account.

Garcetti, who has also been rumored to be weighing a 2020 bid for the White House, has made trips in recent months to New Hampshire and Wisconsin, fueling speculation about his political future.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, another Democrat, is finishing out his final term in Sacramento. Already, several Democrats are vying for the governor's mansion, including former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Treasurer John Chiang.

Garcetti told the Sacramento Bee in August that he had not yet ruled out a gubernatorial bid. The New York Times had also reported that Democratic donors have urged him to consider a run for the presidency.

Press Enterprise

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti: No plans to run for California governor

By Brenda Gazzar

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation." "And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.

The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.

"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."

The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.

It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position

he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.

Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.

"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."

Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.

"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side. Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.

There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.

"It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles," Guerra said.

A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.

Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.

But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.

When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."

While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.

"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.

In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.

"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Fox Los Angeles

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.

Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.

The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.

Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.

Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year.

The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Huffington Post

The Surprising Story Of Republican Towns Going Green

By Marisa Taylor

During the Great Recession, the city of Lancaster, California, had a 17 percent unemployment rate and a housing market dominated by foreclosures. Mayor R. Rex Parris (R) knew he needed to do something drastic.

After meeting with a tech innovator who wanted to build a solar thermal plant that used mirrors to focus the sun's energy, Parris realized that Lancaster could harness California's abundant sunshine to create new jobs, save people money on their utility bills, increase the value of local homes and slash the city's overall energy use.

It became his mission to make Lancaster, which is located about an hour away from Los Angeles, the alternative-energy capital of the world, he told HuffPost. While the solar plant was being built — it switched on in 2009 — Parris read everything he could about renewable energy. What he learned about climate change terrified him.

"Up until then, I believed the Republican mantra that this [climate change] is just a Chinese plot," Parris joked.

Now he talks about solar energy as a way to save costs and a means to "mitigate climate disruption on a much larger scale" (to quote a recent public statement).

Parris may be one of the early GOP adopters, but he's not the only Republican mayor who has embraced renewable energy, often in opposition to the party's national agenda.

President Donald Trump campaigned last year on a promise to pull the U.S. out of the Paris accord on climate change — which he made official in June. Even before Trump took the oath of office, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) began rounding up his fellow mayors to pledge that their cities would still abide by the tenets of the treaty. The group, which has grown to nearly 400 mayors representing 68 million Americans, is dominated by Democrats — but six GOP mayors have also signed the pledge:

Jim Brainard, of Carmel, Indiana

Jim Cason, of Coral Gables, Florida (served as mayor until April 2017)

Richard David, of Binghamton, New York

Kevin Faulconer, of San Diego

Tomas Regalado, of Miami

Knox White, of Greenville, South Carolina

In early 2016, the Sierra Club launched its Ready For 100 campaign, calling on U.S. cities to convert to 100 percent clean energy within 20 years. So far, 150 cities have signed on, including four that are helmed by Republican mayors:

Faulconer, of San Diego

Bob Dixon, of Greensburg, Kansas

Greg Lemons, of Abita Springs, Louisiana

Dale Ross, of Georgetown, Texas

Indeed, Greensburg has already reached its goal.

The average American family would save \$260 a year on energy costs — and \$1,500 on health care costs — if the U.S. were to operate on 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, according to a 2015 Stanford University study. Financial considerations like that can get GOP leaders interested in green energy, said Jodie Van Horn, director of the Ready For 100 campaign.

"There are a number of Republican cities that are transitioning over to renewable energy because they're driven by economic concerns," she said.

Committing to renewable energy is a point of pride for Dale Ross, a die-hard Texas Republican. An accountant by profession, Ross said he's all about making the most cost-effective decisions for the 63,000 people of Georgetown, which he calls an "itty-bitty city."

In Texas' deregulated energy market, Georgetown has been able to negotiate new contracts with wind and solar power providers that have proved to be much cheaper than fossil fuel-based electricity. The city was also able to negotiate a fixed price for the next 25 years, which meant making the jump to clean energy was a no-brainer for the mayor.

"I think if people follow the money, the economics demand that you go to renewable [energy]," Ross said.

But Ross has also come to appreciate the environmental benefits of powering his town with wind and solar. He hopes his fellow Republicans can get over what he called the fear of being labeled a "progressive."

"Don't we have an obligation and duty to leave the planet in better condition than we found it? I think we do," Ross said. "Especially since we have the technology and the ability to do that."

Parris, who is still the mayor of Lancaster, said the green energy push there has created more than 1,000 local jobs and cut energy costs by 3 to 15 percent, while unemployment has fallen to 4 percent. He worked to broker a partnership with solar provider SolarCity in 2010 that has helped residents make the switch to solar power in their own homes. And in 2014, Lancaster became the first U.S. city to require new buildings to be solar-powered.

Now, Lancaster leads the state of California in per capita solar energy production. Earlier this month, the city of 160,000 got the go-ahead from the California Energy Commission to implement its net-zero energy ordinance, which requires all homes to produce more energy than they use.

"We produce more kilowatts [of solar energy] in Lancaster than we use in 10 years," Parris said proudly. "It just makes sense. It's a better house, it's cheaper. You've just got to change your business model."

City Council:

Curtailing the freedom of assembly in Los Angeles

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/28/curtailing-the-freedom-of-assembly-in-los-angeles/>

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Is Hollywood Tax Credit Still Needed To Protect Industry Jobs?

<https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/10/30/is-a-hollywood-tax-credit-still-needed-to-protect-industry-jobs/>

Homelessness & Poverty:

Is compassion giving way to anger over homelessness in Southern California?

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/10/29/compassion-giving-way-to-anger-as-so-cal-residents-ponder-homelessness/>

Housing:

Seven story condo project could replace 1920s Koreatown apartments

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/29/16567342/koreatown-development-condos-apartments-demolition>

Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights & Equity:

Could the end of DACA hurt foreign investment in Southern California?

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/could-the-end-of-daca-hurt-foreign-investment-in-southern-california/>

Public Safety:

Parker Center, home to police dramas real and fictional, comes nearer to demolition

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-parker-center-20171029-story.html>

Tearing down TV's Dragnet LAPD headquarters: Parker Center race relations controversy

<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/10/29/tearing-down-tvs-dragnet-lapd-headquarters-parker-center-race-relations-controversy/>

Suicide, accident or murder? Death plunge from 12th floor near downtown LA

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/29/suicide-accident-or-murder-death-plunge-from-12th-floor-near-downtown-la/>

Double stabbing during Van Nuys birthday party injures 2

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/double-stabbing-during-van-nuys-birthday-party-injures-2/>

Man In 70s Shot To Death On His Front Lawn

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/man-70s-fatally-shot-on-front-lawn/>

Police investigate a fatal shooting of a man outside his Valley Glen home

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-van-nuys-shooting-20171029-story.html>

Man fatally shot in Valley Glen, suspect flees

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/1-man-injured-police-investigate-shooting-call-in-valley-glen/>

LAPD Investigating Former APA Agent Tyler Grasham Amid Sexual Assault Allegations

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/lapd-investigating-apa-agent-tyler-grasham-sexual-assault-allegations-1052799>

1 injured in Mar Vista officer involved shooting

<http://abc7.com/1-injured-in-mar-vista-officer-involved-shooting/2581979/>

Officer Involved Shooting In Mar Vista Leaves Man Injured: LAPD

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Man Shot And Wounded By LAPD Officer In Mar Vista

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Man-Shot-by-LAPD-Officer-in-Mar-Vista-454030203.html>

Search For Hit And Run Driver After Pedestrian Struck And Killed In South LA

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Search-for-Hit-and-Run-Driver-After-Pedestrian-Struck-and-Killed-454042143.html>

A pedestrian dies in Venice crosswalk, where red tape has delayed safety upgrades

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-venice-pedestrian-death-20171027-story.html>

Crosswalk Safety Concerns In Venice After Pedestrian Killed

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/crosswalk-safety-concerns-in-venice/>

Rocks, crowbars used to break into 7 West Valley businesses

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/rocks-crowbar-used-to-break-into-7-west-valley-businesses/>

Trade, Travel & Tourism:

Tom Bradley terminal at LAX temporarily evacuated due to suspicious package

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lax-suspicious-package-20171029-story.html>

LAX's Tom Bradley Terminal briefly closed due to suspicious package

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/29/77165/suspicious-package-closes-lax-s-tom-bradley-termin/>

Evacuation ended at LAX Bradley terminal after suspicious bag cleared

<http://abc7.com/evacuation-ended-at-lax-after-suspicious-bag-cleared/2582046/>

Suspicious package at LAX: Terminal evacuated, bomb squad called in

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/29/suspicious-package-at-lax-terminal-evacuated-bomb-squad-called-in/>

Transportation:

Some tough choices-and pushback-along the proposed bullet train route

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City of Los Angeles:

Dodgers lose 13-12 to Astros in gripping Game 5 slugfest, fall behind 3-2 in World Series

<http://abc7.com/sports/dodgers-lose-to-astros-in-game-5-fall-behind-3-2-in-world-series/2582263/>

Astros are one win from World Series title after outslugging Dodgers 13-12 in World Series Game 5

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/dodgers/la-sp-dodgers-astros-20171029-story.html>

Astros edge Dodgers in walk off thriller, lead World Series 3-2

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/29/astros-edge-dodgers-in-walk-off-thriller-lead-world-series-3-2/>

Dodgers Faces Elimination After Heartbreaking Loss To Astros

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Dodgers-Astros-World-Series-Game-Five.html>

Astros Blast By Dodgers 13-12 in 10th, Lead World Series 3-2

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/astros-blast-by-dodgers-13-12/>

Astros beat LA Dodgers 13-12 in extra inning Game 5 of the World Series

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/houston-astros-get-first-ever-world-series-victory-at-home-beat-dodgers-5-3>

Dodgers lose 13-12 to Astros in Game 5 of World Series

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/29/77164/dodgers-astros-game-5-world-series/>

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Riki Esquer

Executive Assistant to Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero

Mayor's Office of City Services

213.978.0724



Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

Fwd: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 8:08 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run

<http://www.t TMZ.com/2017/10/30/l-a-mayor-eric-garcetti-run-for-president-2020-democrat/>

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/30/garcetti-possible-2020-hopeful-launches-innovation-group-244242>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation

<https://www.newsmax.com/us/eric-garcetti-nonprofit-innovation/2017/10/30/id/822896/>

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California

http://laist.com/2017/10/30/garcetti_wont_be_running_gov.php

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

<https://www.scp.org/news/2017/10/30/77174/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-says-no-to-run-for-governor/>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-run-governor-50801199>

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor

<https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/alcalde-eric-garcetti-no-se-postulara-como-gobernador-de-california/>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/29/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-no-plans-to-run-for-california-governor/>

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan

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Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-agenda-retail-muertos-20171030-story.html>

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple

<https://mynewsla.com/government/2017/10/30/wedding-cake-same-sex-bakery-battle-at-us-supreme-court-la-backs-gay-couple/>

Hepatitis Outbreak In LA: A Wake Up Call

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14273-hepatitis-outbreak-in-la-a-wake-up-call>

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/361-petwatch/14276-i-m-a-pit-bull-i-m-not-a-pit-bull-la-animal-services-playing-games-with-breed-id-labels>

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16578110/la-river-bike-path-canoga-park-studio-city>

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/10/31/could-a-simpler-delta-tunnel-solve-years-of-california-water-conflict>

TMZ

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run

Eric Garcetti, the enormously popular mayor of Los Angeles, is "seriously considering" throwing his hat in the ring for the 2020 Presidential race ... multiple sources connected to Garcetti tell TMZ.

Garcetti just announced he's not going to run for Governor of California, and our sources say that clears the deck for an even bigger race.

One Garcetti confidante told us to look at the Mayor's travel schedule, and it is interesting. Over the past 12 months he spent 112 days outside California and since May he's been out of state for 51 days.

Garcetti is a die-hard democrat who has increasingly gained stature in the party. Our sources say a Presidential run is a "frequent discussion" among his staff.

Garcetti has made a difference in L.A. like few mayors have with various initiatives ... the crown jewel was snagging the Olympics for 2028.

For his part, Garcetti tweeted over the weekend, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." At the same time, Garcetti has said when it comes to politics, "All the rules are off" ... the takeaway there is you don't have to be a U.S. Senator or Governor in order to run for President.

Politico

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

By Edward Isaac Dove

Prospective presidential candidates tend to launch PACs to pump money into campaigns of people who might prove helpful. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is starting a nonprofit with other mayors, union leaders and business executives to fund what they call innovation investments around the country.

Called Accelerator for America, the group will hold its first meeting Nov. 7 and 8 in South Bend, Indiana, timed to coincide with the anniversary of last year's election. The second meeting is already booked for February, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Garcetti announced on Sunday that, as expected, he wouldn't run for governor of California in 2018, writing on Twitter, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." But skipping a statewide run now clears him to continue his exploration of national politics — reelected earlier this year, his second term will now last five and a half years due to a change in the election schedule, through 2022.

The mission of Accelerator for America is to provide strategic and educational support in cities, counties and states where there are ballot initiatives for infrastructure funding. Leaders of the group will also look to invest directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training that they believe can be scaled out around the country.

They begin with \$1 million in funding, half of which comes from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More money is expected.

Garcetti, who'll be chairing the council, said the inspiration for it came from the success of last year's Proposition M in Los Angeles, which authorized \$120 billion for infrastructure investment over the next decade. Its passage contrasted with the failure of the Trump administration to provide any details — let alone launch a legislative push — for its promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan.

"America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C.," Garcetti said. "We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action."

On the stump, Garcetti has used a line about wanting "a Democratic voice in local politics, a local voice in Democratic politics," and he says, "I realized the same thing could be said in a nonpartisan way—a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."

Garcetti said he plans to open November's meeting by listing three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."

When it's pointed out to him that this sounds like presidential rhetoric—especially in the context of a politician who this year has given a speech in the swing state of Wisconsin, spent a day campaigning in New Hampshire and made frequent appearances at national Democratic events—he said, "I hope it's not my platform—I hope it's a platform for local leaders."

Garcetti, whose jobs group will happen to take him to Indiana and South Carolina, added, "I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started."

Longtime Garcetti aide Rick Jacobs will serve as CEO of the group, which is in the process of being incorporated as a 501(c)3.

Each member of the advisory council is being asked to make three suggestions for initiatives to back, and they'll look to take applications as the group develops.

"The more we can do to link up the capital and expertise that's on the coasts with the needs in the middle of the country, the better," said South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who helped develop the concept for Accelerator for America with Garcetti following conversations at meetings of the U.S. Conference of Mayors over the summer.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters general president Doug McCarron pointed out that Proposition M is expected to create 465,000 jobs over 40 years.

"We take that show on the road and we show different cities and counties what can be achieved locally," McCarron said. "There's got to be an uprising of spirit at the local level. It's really easy to point fingers at Washington."

The other advisory council members are: Nashville, Tennessee Mayor Megan Barry; Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin; Dayton, Ohio Mayor Nan Whaley; Washington State Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib; International Union of Operating Engineers general president James Callahan; Echoing Green president Cheryl Dorsey; Dollar Shave Club founder & CEO Michael Dubin; Bellini ink CEO Angela Chavez Blackwell; Seattle and CEO Scott M. ...

Capital Founder and CEO Chamaraj Palanipitiya; and HNTB president and CEO Rob Stimp.

All the elected officials involved so far are Democrats, though the group does expect to add Republicans to its advisory council.

Newsmax

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation

By Joe Crowe

Eric Garcetti, the Democratic mayor of Los Angeles is working with other mayors, union leaders, and business executives to launch Accelerator for America, a nonprofit for funding innovation around the U.S., according to Politico.

Accelerator for America's mission is to support strategic and educational support in areas where there are initiatives for infrastructure funding on the ballots. Leaders will put investments directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training, Politico's report said.

Garcetti, who will be chairman of the group, said the group's inspiration came from Proposition M in Los Angeles that authorized \$120 billion in investment in infrastructure over the next decade. Proposition M's passage contrasted with President Donald Trump's administration's failure to launch its promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, Politico reported. "America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C. We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action," Garcetti said, according to Politico.

Garcetti said he wants "a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."

The group begins with funding of \$1 million — half of that provided by United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More funding is expected, Politico's report said.

The group's first meeting will be Nov. 7 and 8, coinciding with the anniversary of the 2016 presidential election. Garcetti said he would open the meeting with three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."

"I hope it's not my platform — I hope it's a platform for local leaders... I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started," Garcetti said when it was noted that the comment sounds like a presidential candidate's rhetoric, according to Politico.

All the officials in the group so far are Democrats, but the group expects to add Republicans to its advisers, Politico reported.

LAist

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California

By Annie Lloyd

Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not be running for governor of California, ending speculation he would try to replace Governor Jerry Brown in the 2018 election.

If he were to enter race, he would be campaigning against former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Instead, he will remain in Los Angeles to "best build on our progress here in L.A.."

Garcetti won his second term as mayor by a landslide back in March. He was sworn in in July, so he's only a few months in to his second term, which will last five and a half years due to a one-time change in the election year.

His decision not to run for governor doesn't mean he won't look for a presidential run in 2020. While he and his camp have kept mum on the matter, we've noted that he's visited multipleswing states and had a meet-and-greet with billionaire donor Ronald Perelman. He also spoke to a TV reporter in Wisconsin back in June, saying, "I think all the rules are off," according to the L.A. Times. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is," he said. We'll fill in the next sentence: no Los Angeles Mayor could be president until Garcetti is.

KPCC

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.

Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.

The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.

Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.

Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year. The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

ABC News

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press

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La Opinion

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor

Eric Garcetti, mayor of the city of Los Angeles, announced on Sunday that he will not run to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018.

"We still have a lot to do to build a stronger city, state and nation," said Garcetti, through a tweet. "I know I can grow the success we've had here in Los Angeles," he added.

Speculation about the political aspirations of the mayor of Los Angeles increased in recent months, during which Garcetti traveled to several states of the country and refused to deny the rumors.

However, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles, recently announced his candidacy, and this may have affected his decision. As the Los Angeles Times points out, the abovementioned, as well as Treasurer John Chiang, share taxpayers. Even the Villaraigosa campaign will be backed by Latino and Angeleno voters, two sectors to which Garcetti would have also gone.

Due to a change in election dates, Garcetti will serve as mayor until 2022. According to a report in The New York Times, some Democratic contributors urge him to consider the presidency in 2020.

Daily Breeze

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?

By Brenda Gazzar

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation."

"And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.

The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.

"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."

The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.

It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position, he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.

Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.

"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."

Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.

"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side. Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.

There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.

It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles, Guerra said.

A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.

Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.

But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.

When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."

While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.

"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.

In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.

"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Armenian Weekly

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) is continuing its engagement with key government, business, and civil society stakeholders in both Armenia and the United States to establish non-stop flights between Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) in Yerevan, Armenia with a U.S. carrier.

"Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti told the ANCA (Photo: ANCA)

Zanku Armenian, who is leading the ANCA's effort and Zareh Sinanyan, Glendale, California City Council Member recently traveled to Yerevan to discuss with officials the practical steps necessary to establish this proposed flight route. Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek was also in Yerevan on an official visit at the same time, arranged by the ANCA Pasadena chapter. Tornek and Sinanyan serve together on the Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission, as President and Vice President, respectively. The meetings in Yerevan build on discussions ANCA officials had earlier this year with LAX CEO Deborah Flint.

Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Armenian-Americans in the United States. This ambitious undertaking to establish a global direct link between Los Angeles and Yerevan comes at a time when LAX is going through a massive \$14 billion dollar makeover, turning it into a world-class airport—while the Southern California region also prepares to host the Olympic Games in 2028. LAX is already the number one destination airport in the country, with more flights originating and ending there than any other airport.

"L.A. has strong and lasting bonds with the people of Armenia," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness."

"We see an eagerness on the part of all officials to work with the ANCA to explore this creative initiative," said Armenian, "because linking the largest Armenian-American diaspora community in the United States with Armenia will boost tourism and business opportunities in both Los Angeles and Armenia."

In Yerevan, consultations began with the Chairman of the State Revenue Committee, Vardan Harutyunyan. He welcomed the positive economic impact this flight would have on both regions. In addition to pledging his support, Harutyunyan encouraged continued direct contacts with government officials in Yerevan, including helping to bring appropriate stakeholders in Armenia together to further evaluate the financial feasibility of this endeavor.

Discussions were also held with Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia. Avetisyan reiterated that establishing non-stop airline service with the U.S. has long been a goal, especially as passenger traffic to Yerevan continues to grow at a rapid pace year-over-year. Avetisyan acknowledged that all the technical pre-conditions already exist for Armenia to accept the type of large aircraft it would take to make such a long journey. This includes the Boeing 777 aircraft which currently already lands at Zvartnots Airport. Avetisyan also expressed confidence that any additional levels of security certification required by international and U.S. authorities to allow for non-stop flights between Armenia and the U.S. could easily be met, as Armenia already maintains a high degree of security at its airport in Yerevan.

Glendale City Councilman and Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission Member Zareh Sinanyan, Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia and longtime ANCA leader Zanku Armenian in Yerevan discussing steps needed to establish a non-stop LAX-EVN flight (Photo: ANCA)

The group also met with Andranik Shkhyan, Deputy General Manager at Zvartnots International Airport, who was also enthusiastic about establishing non-stop US-Armenia airline service. He advised that he was also taking active steps to promote this effort by sharing relevant information with certain U.S. carriers. Shkhyan pledged to collaborate with the ANCA to further promote this non-stop flight goal within aviation circles to attract possible new airline service.

Lastly, a meeting was held with Zarmine Zeitountsian, Chairperson of the State Committee for Tourism, which is part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia. Ms. Zeitountsian also welcomed the creation of non-stop airline service with the U.S. and offered the full support of her office in pursuing this effort, as it aligns with the Committee's mission to promote increased tourism to Armenia.

groundwork for future steps that will need to be taken," said Zanku Armenian of the ANCA. The next crucial steps include the need for a detailed financial feasibility study and other economic impact studies that will be used in discussions with possible investors and U.S. carriers that could serve the new route," Armenian continued.

While the meetings were being held in Armenia, the ANCA also briefed members of the U.S. Congressional delegation that visited Armenia and Artsakh the following week. These and previous congressional briefings intend to secure support from various Members of Congress who can help with the appropriate U.S. federal agencies that would need to be involved in this process.

The ANCA plans to continue pursuing this bold initiative working with relevant government officials in the United States and Armenia. The ANCA's effort aims to ensure a methodical, integrated and professional approach between the government and private sectors that is necessary to attract the serious interest of U.S. carriers.

LA Times

Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex

By James Peltz

As thousands prepared to head to Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Saturday for its 18th annual celebration of the Mexican tradition known as Dia de los Muertos, they had no shortage of places to shop.

Outfits adorned with images of colorful sugar skulls, skeletons and other traditional Day of the Dead symbols are available these days far beyond the small neighborhood stores that once had a lock on such things.

Target, Wal-Mart and other big retailers have plastered the theme on masks, paper plates and candle holders. There are Day of the Dead earrings and necklaces at Party City, costumes and headbands at Spirit Halloween stores and temporary tattoos and bed covers available at Etsy.com.

Merchandise capitalizing on the tradition had been spreading rapidly in the retail world in recent years, but this year it seems to be everywhere, even stamped on the California lottery's "Dia de los Muertos Scratchers."

With BridgeClimb Sydney, guests can ascend the southern arch of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, seven days a week, night or day. The view from the bridge is breathtaking.

The Hollywood Forever Cemetery event was just one of 19 Day of the Dead festivities across greater Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced on Twitter. Day of the Dead also is the underlying concept of a new Pixar animated movie, "Coco," that's being heavily marketed ahead of its Nov. 22 release.

Some point to another movie, 2015's James Bond film "Spectre," for helping propel the Day of the Dead momentum because it includes an elaborate Dia de los Muertos parade in Mexico City.

As a result, Day of the Dead — largely celebrated Nov. 1 and 2 — effectively has become rolled up into the Halloween retail juggernaut, unsettling some observers who see it as cultural appropriation that turns the centuries-old Day of the Dead remembrances into crass commercialism.

The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent.— Charlene Villaseñor Black, UCLA professor

Nearly 180 million Americans this year are expected to spend a record \$9.1 billion on Halloween, a 32% surge from just two years ago, according to the National Retail Federation.

The trade group doesn't yet track Day of the Dead sales alone, but "we wouldn't be surprised if it becomes mainstream by next year, especially after movies like 'Coco' are released," federation spokeswoman Ana Serafin Smith said. "Movies influence what a lot of people want to dress up as on Halloween."

Day of the Dead merchandise "has been a popular style" for Party City since it began carrying the products three years ago, said Ryan Vero, president of Party City's retail division, which operates 900 U.S. outlets. "We even dedicated a section in our stores for this merchandise," he said.

Day of the Dead products are "dramatically more visible to me this year," said Charlene Villaseñor Black, a professor of Ibero American Art and Chicana/Chicano Studies at UCLA. "The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent."

The ever-growing Halloween retail phenomenon is even encroaching on Christmas turf. Some Halloween buffs are buying bright-orange fake Christmas trees from the likes of Treetopia of South San Francisco and adorning them with skulls, skeletons and candy to create Halloween trees.

The jump in Halloween spending not only is a bright spot for retailers but an offbeat economic indicator because its growth generally has tracked the economy's expansion and rising consumer confidence.

The National Retail Federation's spending survey, conducted with Prosper Insights and Analytics, showed that only 12.9% of respondents said current economic conditions would affect their Halloween spending this year. That figure was 32.1% six years ago, when the economic recovery was stumbling.

Holiday's popularity is growing

Dia de los Muertos goes back thousands of years. Much of the holiday is aimed at celebrating life along with remembering the dead.

The event traditionally consisted of family gatherings that often were held at the gravesites of the departed. Altars, or ofrendas, also were created in survivors' homes with photos and favorite objects of dead loved ones.

Day of the Dead's rising popularity in Southern California is seen as occurring in lockstep with the region's growing Latino population, a consumer segment the retail industry naturally wants to capture.

But there's been a backlash in some quarters.

A recent article on style website Bustle.com listed the Day of the Dead sugar-skull mask or face painting as one of eight costumes that "are actually racist, even if you might not realize it" unless one was raised in Mexican culture and observed

Día de los Muertos.

The website Latina.com listed Día de los Muertos as one of seven things "Mexicans did before it was cool" and that the holiday "has become fodder for cultural-appropriating Americans."

Pixar parent Walt Disney Co. also ran into controversy as it developed plans for "Coco." Disney tried to trademark "Día de los Muertos" in 2013 but withdrew the application after a public uproar that accused Disney of cultural insensitivity. Certain universities also are urging students to avoid Halloween costumes in general that some might deem offensive because they reflect ethnic stereotypes or are culturally insensitive and disrespectful.

UCLA's Villaseñor Black said she too was "more conscious of the issue of appropriation" with Day of the Dead merchandise.

"I am wondering about the commercialization" of the tradition at the same time "Latinos and Mexicans are under fire, really, in the United States," she said, in part because of the heightened national dispute about immigration.

"There's a tension in my mind," she said.

It's not surprising that Day of the Dead merchandise sales would flow into the Halloween retail season because of the calendar, said Tricia Lacy, president of Beistle Co., a century-old Pennsylvania maker of decorations and party goods for retailers.

"There's no practical way to wait until Halloween" to buy Day of the Dead costumes and other goods "because they're celebrated one right after the other," she said. So retailers increasingly include Day of the Dead sections in their Halloween displays.

When Beistle started carrying Day of the Dead products more than a decade ago, it sold only four items. It now has more than 60 Día de los Muertos products for sale, including masks and paper lanterns, "and we will have more next year," she said.

My News LA

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Attorney's office helped write a brief submitted Monday to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a same-sex couple denied service by a Colorado baker because of their sexual orientation.

The brief prepared by the city's lawyers, along with legal staff for Santa Clara County and New York City, was filed on behalf of 70 cities and counties and 80 mayors across the United States.

"Again we're taking a stand for LGBTQ equality and against discrimination that assaults citizens' dignity based on sexual orientation," Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. "A business that denied service because of a customer's race or religion would be roundly condemned. Denying service based on sexual orientation deserves the same condemnation. The court should see this case for what it is — an attempt to subvert anti-discrimination laws that ensure equal treatment for all people."

The case dates back to 2012, when a couple — David Mullins and Charlie Craig — went to Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, to order a cake for their wedding, but were denied service by owner Jack Phillips because they were a same-sex couple.

The brief, filed in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, argues that the Supreme Court should reject Phillips' claim that he can refuse to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples because making a cake is an act of expression protected under the First Amendment.

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruled that the bakery had violated Colorado law by discriminating against Mullins and Craig. The bakery sought review of the ruling by the nation's highest court, which is scheduled to hear oral arguments on Dec. 5.

"Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "The religious freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution should never be used as a cover for bigotry — and we cannot allow anyone to undermine protections that shield Americans from discrimination."

City Watch

Hepatitis Outbreak In LA: A Wake Up Call

By Julia Stein

On October 25, 2017, protestors from the Catholic Worker and the LA Community action Network entered Los Angeles City Hall carrying covered toilets protesting lack of hygiene among homeless who have an outbreak of hepatitis A. The protestors tried to deliver the toilets to Mayor Garcetti.

The Los Angeles Times reported October 26 that the City Hall Security Desk stopped the toilets saying because they were porcelain "and no glass was allowed in the City Hall." Skid Row residents wrote messages on the toilets and had previously brought the toilets to City Hall. Protestors also occupied 4th floor bathroom stalls where the City Hall council offices are located from 9:45 am-2:00 pm, protesting lack of toilets for the homeless.

Governor Brown has declared California's hepatitis A outbreak an emergency on October 13. Fourteen people have the disease in Los Angeles and 71 in Santa Cruz. In San Diego 19 have died from hepatitis, over 490 have the disease, and 351 people have been hospitalized in the deadliest outbreak of the disease in 20 years. Most of the victims in these three cities have been homeless who lacked 24-hour public restrooms and hand washing facilities. Since hepatitis A can have a 15-to-50 day incubation period, people unaware they are infected can spread the disease through food or water contaminated by fecal matter or lack of hand washing. The L.A. Times said in "A Wake Up Call: Hepatitis A Outbreak in LA" that "the city is not doing enough to protect the homeless from hepatitis A."

existence of even a handful of cases among people who live closely together, often share food and utensils, and cannot easily track their contacts is a blueprint for a potentially massive outbreak."

In downtown Los Angeles Skid Row the city has only nine toilets for 1,800 people at night. 61,000 homeless are in the LA area with many living in tents along the Los Angeles River or under freeway underpasses have nowhere to wash their hands in the city and county. The demonstrators have asked for 164 toilets and wash stations for Skid Row to bring the area up to hygiene standards that the United Nations "sets for Syrian refugees." Ruben Martin Garcia, who lived on Skid Row for 24 years, said, "We're not asking for gold toilets with diamonds and emeralds. We're just asking for some ... toilets."

City officials had promised to put up 10 more toilets in Skid Row by mid-September but by September 17th the toilets weren't installed. The city then said by mid-October they would install a mobile "hygiene center" for Skid Row on a city-owned parking lot with toilets, washing stations, showers, and half a dozen stacked washers and dryers but didn't. Councilman Jose Huizar, whose district includes Skid Row, and Mayor Garcetti's spokesman Alex Comisar both said they are working on getting new toilet facilities for Skid Row. The City Council has a discussion on the issue for October 27, 2017, on how to bring emergency portable toilets to the homeless. Councilmen Huizar, Mike Bonin, and Marqueece Harris-Dawson have agreed on a motion that in two weeks staff should report on portable toilets. Jed Poole, supervising coordinator at the Catholic Worker said, "The number [of people] on Skid Row ... deserves human dignity and human rights. They deserve to not have to piss and shit on a sidewalk, and then have to be criminalized for it."

LA City Council Mike Bonin secured funding to have public restrooms open 24-hours a day near Venice Beach, but the City hasn't used the money yet. Bonin, who has worked for months on increasing restrooms for the homeless, asked the City Council to fund emergency portable toilets on Venice Beach and a mobile toilet-and-sink program like San Francisco's. "The current situation is neither tolerable nor humane, and it is a risk to public health," Bonin said. Hand washing or vaccinations are ways to stop the spread of the disease. LA's Department of Public Health Los Angeles has started a vaccination program in homeless shelters, community clinics, service providers, and on the streets. Though persuading the homeless to get vaccinated is difficult.

The first week 1,200 people had been vaccinated, but that leaves 50,000 more people—drug users, the homeless, medical providers, jail inmates-- to vaccinate.

The hepatitis outbreak in California shows how lack of decent housing endangers public health. The first modern study of hookworm the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston showed hookworm, caused by lack of sewage treatment, is very common in Lowndes County, Alabama, which is 75% African-American and very poor. In Lowndes, the average income is \$18,046 a year, and elementary waste disposal sanitation is "often non-existent." 34% of the people in a new study tested positive for hookworm.

Scientists once thought that hookworm, a disease associated with dire poverty, was prevalent during in the 19th and the early 20th century among both blacks and whites in the South, but had died out by the 1980s. The hookworm parasite, after entering the body, can after months or years cause iron deficiency and anemia, weight loss, tiredness, and impaired mental function so that children do poorly in school and become impoverished adults. Civil rights protestors led by Martin Luther King in 1965 marched through Lowndes County from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for voting right for blacks, but voting rights have not improved the poor sanitation.

The Guardian describes how in Lowndes County children are "playing feet away from open pools of raw sewage; drinking water pumped beside cracked pipes of untreated waste " The Baylor study found that 73% of the residents in the study have been exposed to "raw sewage washing back into their homes as a result of faulty septic tanks or waste pipes becoming overwhelmed in torrential rains." Anthony Thigpen, a community activist, said his cousins who live in a trailer park with bad sewage pipes say they are disgusted by it but "there's no public help for them here and if you're earning \$700 a month there's no way you can afford your own private sanitation." 80% of Lowndes County is not covered by any municipal system. Most blacks in Lowndes County are much too poor to upgrade their septic tanks.

Catherine Flowers, founder of Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise (ACRE), a non-profit that uncovers the root causes of poverty in rural Alabama, says, "Our billionaire philanthropists like Bill Gates fund water treatment around the world, but they don't fund it here in the US because no one acknowledges that this level of poverty exists in the richest nation of the world." Scientists from Houston who did the first study want now to conduct a larger study, and estimate as many as 12 million people in the U.S. could have neglected tropical diseases in the South and the Midwest. Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, told the Guardian that the study's results were a "wake-up call to the nation." The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) in October, 2016, also had a study that reported that bad housing causes many health problems. Metro USA New York reported that the NYAM study cited how in East Harlem, a very poor neighborhood, residents since 2011 have lost 2,000 units of affordable housing and estimates predict they will lose 6,000 more units in the next 10 years. Lacking housing they could afford, residents have increased homelessness and their health suffers: they have "high rates of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, infant mortality, drug addiction, and mental issues."

A lead author of the NYAM report Kimberly Libran said that the report's findings could apply to other communities in New York City as well as other cities. Holly Slaton is one such tenant who reports that tenants in her building experienced months of loud, hazardous construction that left many sick: "My daughter and I suffered months of respiratory infections, where our doctor told us to wear a dust mask in our own home. A woman downstairs report having her eye swollen shut as a result from a sinus infection which we also believe was caused by the dust we were forced to breathe in our own homes."

Brandon Kielbasa of Cooper Square Committee, which advocates for affordable housing, says that tenants in gentrifying neighborhoods face both unhealthy housing and intense psychological turmoil: "The physical act of converting affordable housing to luxury buildings with three bedrooms, swimming pools, and often exotic environments for tenants."

The connection between bad housing and bad health has been known for over a hundred fifty years. In the 19th century as huge populations in both Britain and the United States poured into the newly industrializing cities, communal wells provided water and few cities had facilities that removed sewage. The poor lived in cramped tenements where infectious disease spread: epidemics of cholera, small pox, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever occurred regularly. In England Dr. John Snow discovered in 1854 how a cholera epidemic was spread by polluted water. The Public Health Act in 1875 in England made local cities provide sewage disposal facilities and clean water for all. Also in many U.S. cities public health officials installed sewers and hygienic water systems and death rates fell drastically.

In Los Angeles KCET TV did a story "Addressing South L.A.'s Slum Housing and Indoor Air Pollution" where Lizzeth Henao Rosales reported that South Los Angeles, which is largely black and Latino, has 69% renters in some of the oldest housing in the city.

Vilma Marroquin lived in a building in South Los Angeles owned by a notorious slumlord William Little. The building has "a severe pest infestation, including cockroaches and bedbugs, crumbling walls, and leaking plumbing." The landlord's use of toxic pesticides caused Marroquin's two children to have severe health problems needing multiple visits to the emergency room: once her son "stopped breathing a day after her unit had been fumigated."

Marroquin became a tenant leader in Strategic Action for a Just Economy's campaign for healthy housing which advocates use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that requires "significant repairs to the crumbling infrastructure and a holistic view of the building as one unit." Marroquin filed complaints with City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department as well as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Her physician wrote letters for her two children demanding the landlord stop using toxic chemicals. Her landlord started using non-toxic pesticides and patched some holes in her apartment, but not for other apartments, so the building still has a severe pest infestation.

The World Health Organization by 2017 has said that adequate housing should protect against communicable diseases; protect against injury, poisoning and chronic diseases; and reduce psychological stress to a minimum. Currently some of the major health problems in the U.S. from poor housing are water seeping into a home and poor ventilation that increase moisture leading to pests—cockroaches, rats, and mice-- and to mold—two known triggers of allergies and asthma. High lead levels from housing with very old lead pipes results in learning disabilities, neurological problems, and even death. Aging and poorly built homes also increase risk for chronic respiratory infections. Poor cooling in homes during heat waves can lead to the elderly having heat exhaustion and death from heat stroke while poor heating during winter helps facilitate diseases. Inner city neighborhoods that are food deserts lacking grocery stores with healthy fruits and vegetables lead to higher rates of obesity and its diseases than in wealthier neighborhoods with grocery stores.

As the nation's housing crises worsens with less affordable housing, then corresponding health problems will also increase among the homeless and among population forced to double or triple up—seven people living in a one-bedroom apartment, for example—increasing the spread of disease. The recent epidemic of hepatitis A in San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz as well as the National School of Tropical Medical at Baylor Medical School's recent study of hookworm among the poor blacks in Lowndes County, Alabama, are indeed wake up calls to the nation.

City Watch

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!

By Phyllis Daugherty

At its Tuesday night meeting, Oct. 24, the Los Angeles Animal Services' Commission, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, approved General Manager Brenda Barnette's report requesting removal of all dog-breed ID labels from kennel cards in the interests of "transparency," because she and the City shelter staff "really don't know the breed of the dogs."

This policy was promoted by Commissioners Layne Dicker and Roger Wolfson, both attorneys. Barnette cites a study by the makers of DNA tests which found, "The presence of a breed's signature does not guarantee that the dog will look like the specific detected breed..." Thus, following this theory, many of the "Pit Bulls" that are touted as great pets may not really be Pit Bulls.

GM Barnett summarized her report, saying, "We believe that we have an ethical responsibility to be honest with the community by not providing them with false information about, and creating false expectations of, the dog they are adopting. To do that we propose eliminating breed labels on our cage cards, online profiles and anywhere that breed labels have previously been used."

If anyone doubts that this move toward "honesty" is a subterfuge to place Pit Bulls with adopters who do not want, or fear, the breed, here was just one of the GM's comments at the meeting:

"We need to get with the veterinary community and educate them on what we are doing. One of the most damning things that can happen is for a vet to say, 'Oh, my God, you got a Pit Bull, when they really don't know any more than we do.'"

The public will be told that, rather than relying on breed identification which might not be accurate, they should focus on the specific dog. There was no acknowledgement of the lack of sophistication in choosing an appropriate pet by many shelter adopters.

Barnette explained that, rather than speculating on breed, the test of behavior of a dog is determined by putting it in an area with a family or in a play group to find out how it reacts. She added, "People often ask me, 'How is this dog with children,' and I say, 'I don't know, but bring your child over and we can do an introduction, and we'll be careful.'"

Commissioner Roger Wolfson questioned—but quickly ignored his own concerns—that the Department does not have the resources or personnel to institute such a drastic change.

For those enticed to discover the love of an "experienced" and loving pet as it cuddles up to a TV news anchor, media will no longer be identifying any LAAS by breed nor speculating on possible breed. This policy change will also stop "breed rescue" from Los Angeles shelters, because it is discriminatory for some dogs to be singled out as purebreds.

instead of focusing on how to get more of these pit bulls adopted...we should be focused on reducing the number of pit bulls that need to be adopted," writes J. Thomas Beasley.

BE AWARE THAT THIS POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO LA CITY ANIMAL SERVICES AND NONE OF THE OTHER LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS

WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?

A Best Friends Animal Society webpage (Removing Breed Labels from Adoptable Pets) states, "Thanks to Maddie's Fund, Best Friends is working on a study within our own adoption centers in Los Angeles and with some of our valued partners, including Pima County, Arizona."

Barnette explained the theory derives from the research of one doctoral student at Arizona University who found that people reacted differently to breed-associated dogs in photos. However, in reviewing that research, Lisa Gunter, who spoke at the meeting, was cautious in concluding any notable increase in adoptions at the Florida shelter where this experiment was implemented and studied, stating that, the slight gains seen could also have been influenced by changes in shelter hours and adoption incentives.

Elizabeth Oreck, National Manager for Best Friends Animal Society Puppy Mill Initiatives, commented about mistakes in breed identification online, elaborating, "This obsession with breed is a thorn in my side. It is the reason that puppy mills are doing what they are doing and the reason people are getting what they think they want and not getting what they should want and what we can provide to them. So, instead of trying to meet the demands for what people want, which is generally purebreds, we should be making them want what we have already, so that we don't have to make more of these breeds. We are able to provide what already exists so that we can stop killing what already exists."

BREED ID IS REQUIRED FOR LICENSING AND INSURANCE

Insurance

Farmers' Insurance agent Michael Gonzales advises that the way the insurance industry would handle this is to just not cover any damaging acts by the dog, because all policies require that the breed and bite history of all insured dogs is provided.

Licensing

Barnette has not addressed the fact that LAAS is required to issue a license to every dog over four months which is adopted from the shelter. The State requires a breed to be listed. She did not say how this will be handled. One of the department's prime public health and safety responsibilities is to issue dog licenses for every dog in the City to verify rabies vaccination.

Barnette stated she had looked at some rabies certificates from veterinarians and they listed the breed as "mixed" and that had not stopped processing. However, she did not say whether she actually looked at the associated license to see if the Department or the pet owner had identified the breed before issuance.

The California Department of Public Health's website sets the NASPHV Rabies Certificate as a model to use, and it asks for the predominant breed. It also lists the rabies codes and regulations. The certificate calls for a description of the dog "including breed, color, age, and sex."

In addition, the CA Food and Agricultural Code, Chapter 3, Dog Tags, reads, § 30802. Application. Each application for a dog license tag shall state the age, sex, color, and breed of the dog for which the license is desired and the address of the owner.

Certain breeds are commonly not allowed under some insurance policies or rental agreements. The staff will no longer be free to share with potential adopters whether it may be one of those breeds, according to Barnette.

Commission President Larry Gross pressed Barnette for assurance that renters would not be in danger of taking home a pet that could cause them to be evicted, but she managed to sidestep this issue by referring to providing the weight of the dog.

WILL LA CITY SHELTERS INCREASE LIABILITY / RETURNS?

Historically, LA city and other shelter staff provide their "best-guess" estimate of the breed(s) of unwanted, homeless dogs. Sometimes they are wrong, but it is not a deliberate attempt to deceive the public. As they become more familiar with the dog, they often make corrections in the breed assessment, based on what they observe -- positive or negative -- and include any identifiable traits observed that are genetically programmed into certain breeds.

Some dogs exhibit aggressive or fearful behavior, bite or attempt to attack other dogs or cats while impounded, and the staff has, in the past, been able to advise the public that it may need a "special" home, supervision in certain situations, or recommend that it not be adopted where there are children or other pets. Under the proposed policy, that will not be allowed because it would indicate "negative" behavior.

Brenda Barnette personally released a dangerous dog, named Sodom, with a history of attacks.

This entire discussion by the Commissioners and Barnette did not include the safety of pet and families.

ATTORNEY'S OPINION

Jeffrey Zinder, Senior Partner at the Mission Hills law firm of Zinder, Koch & McBratney, opined,

The public relies on the apparent expertise and knowledge of its officials, including those involved with its shelters.

The fact that breed-specific descriptions appear in residential leases and insurance policies requires that information is not withheld or misrepresented. After an attack you can be assured that the insurance adjuster will require a DNA test and that result along with the general appearance of the dog may have disastrous consequences for the person who "adopted/rescued" the animal. Regardless of any PC label, once in your possession you are the owner and liable for its conduct.

This is one of the most absurd steps being proposed in an effort to empty the shelters regardless of impact on public safety.

ADOPTERS' ACCESS TO PAST HISTORY

Barnette describes one change in her Oct. 17 report which differs from the original plan:

"If an owner surrenders a dog and believes that s/he knows what breed the dog is, it will be listed in the notes along with all other information, such as behavior history, that we input. That, as all information will be shared with an interested possible adopter or rescue partner."

(That is an improvement, but does it pertain to ALL dogs impounded or just to surrenders?)

"Notes" are those comments entered by the veterinarian regarding vaccines, weight, health issues etc. They do not contain behavior history, other than whether the examining vet can "handle the dog."

"Behavior memos," which are shared internally among employees and volunteers are separate and must also be made available to potential adopters. That policy must be put into a written form provided to them before the adoption process and be a posted policy so potential adopters know to ask for them--if Barnette's intention is truly "transparency" and full disclosure.

BRENDA BARNETTE'S DISAVOWAL OF BREEDS

It is difficult to take seriously Brenda Barnette's disavowal of the ability to identify breed characteristics in dogs, considering she was an AKC representative and dog breeder (along with her daughter, Mary Alice Davis, an employee of Best Friends). She was listed showing her Poodle in Seattle in 2009 at the Gavilan Kennel Club and in May 2010 at a BaRay Event. She was hired as GM of L.A. Animal Services in June 2010--one month later--and formally began her duties in September 2010.

My 2013 article, Brenda Barnette's Daughter is a 'Responsible' Dog Breeder, Says Best Friends' L.A. Director, discusses the disclosure by Daniel Guss of a dog show roster dated May 23, 2013, in which Brenda Barnette and her daughter Mary Alice Davis are listed as "owners" in several competitions at the Southern California Portuguese Water Dog Club, under the listing for "Puppy Bitches:" 9 months and under 12 months, (8) CUTWATER IT HAD TO BE YOU, WS43376901. 05/29/2012.

Marc Peralta, Executive Director of Best Friends LA, wrote in an e-mail to Daniel Guss on Oct. 13, 2013, "Mary Alice falls into the category of responsible breeders."

COUNCILMAN PAUL KORETZ' OFFER REJECTED

Jim Bickhart, representing Councilmember Koretz, spoke at the meeting and pointed out, "I am not hearing any discussion that relates to whether this results in a higher percentage of successful adoptions -- where the animals don't come back to the shelter?"

He advised the Commission that Councilman Koretz would be willing to entertain the Commission forwarding its final decision and background information to the City Council so it could be referred to the PAW Committee for further review and a hearing held on it, with recommendations sent back, if they make a decision. He emphasized "that doesn't--in a legal sense--take away from your policy-making role--but could be included in your instruction to the Department, or not."

Commissioner Wolfson moved NOT to refer this Item to Councilman Koretz. It was seconded by Commissioner Dicker. The Commission resoundingly approved the motion.

Curbed

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

By Bianca Barragan

Studio-MLA (formerly Mia Lehrer and Associates), Gruen Associates, and Psomas were tapped last year to help create a 12-mile bike path along the Los Angeles River that would connect Canoga Park with Griffith Park. We're getting a sneak peek at what that greenway project could bring to the river's banks.

Studio-MLA designed "river-front trails, bikeways, greenways, pocket parks, habitat areas, and urban runoff treatment facilities" along the river from Vanalden Avenue to Forest Lawn/Zoo Drive to the east by "converting existing maintenance roads into a continuous greenway and designing bridge and road crossings where the trail meets streets, freeways and rail lines," says a statement from Studio MLA.

The project was highlighted in the summer of 2016, when Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the design team, as well as a wave of funding for the project from his office.

"This bikeway will give all Angelenos a new way to experience our city, build accessibility to our revitalized river, and expand green space for families to enjoy," Garcetti said last summer.

Community workshops are underway now, with a final feasibility study due out in early 2018, Mary Nemick, spokesperson for the city's engineering bureau, tells Curbed. Construction is estimated to begin in 2020.

Funding also comes from the offices of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez, and David Ryu. The city's Department of Recreation and Parks is another partner on the project.

News Deeply

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?

By Matt Weiser

CALIFORNIA'S AMBITIOUS PLAN to build two giant water tunnels under the West's largest estuary has been deemed too expensive by some of the water utilities that would have to pay for it. As a result, attention is turning back to a cheaper option: One tunnel instead of two.

On October 17, the board of directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District unanimously rejected the \$4.7 billion

tunnel project, known as WaterFix, and instead expressed support for a smaller, single-tunnel alternative. The district serves more than 1 million people in Silicon Valley.

A single tunnel was also recently endorsed by Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who represents a big share of the urban customers who would help pay for it. And the Public Policy Institute of California, a prominent think-tank, came out in support of the idea last year.

Ironically, it is an option the state's top water agencies rejected out of hand a decade ago. This occurred even though environmental groups actually supported it and encouraged the state Department of Water Resources and its water contractors to investigate a single tunnel, which could save nearly \$8 billion.

What's even more striking is that a single tunnel was first proposed not by environmental groups dabbling around the edges of the water industry. It came from an expert at another Bay Area water utility with lots of experience building big water projects.

"We told them back in 2007 that the right thing to do was build one tunnel, and see if it works," said Greg Gartrell, who was then assistant general manager at Contra Costa Water District and is now retired. "If you need two tunnels later on, do that. But if you do two tunnels right up front, you're basically stranding an asset. Half your investment is doing nothing for you."

State officials looked at a single-tunnel option in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as one of more than a dozen alternatives for their WaterFix project. The route, shown here, includes a single 3,000cfs tunnel and one intake on the Sacramento River, near Clarksburg. (Image courtesy California Department of Water Resources)

Gartrell said that is because the state's own analysis of the tunnel concept shows water yield from the project doesn't increase much, no matter how big the tunnels are. One reason is that, very often, the flow in the Sacramento River restricts how much water can be diverted into the tunnels.

For obvious reasons, the project would never be allowed to divert so much water that it would dry up the Sacramento River. This resulted in a basic ground rule stating that no water can be diverted into the tunnels until river flows reach about 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Such flows generally occur only during winter and spring. Even then, only minimal diversions are allowed until river flows ramp up much higher.

As a result, Gartrell said, river conditions allowing the dual tunnels to operate at their full 9,000cfs capacity would exist only about 7 percent of the time.

In contrast, a single tunnel sized at 3,000cfs would be able to operate at full capacity much more often. On balance, it would fall just a few hundred thousand acre-feet short of matching the total annual water diversions of the dual tunnels, Gartrell said.

The state's own analysis in 2013 showed that a single-tunnel project sized at 3,000cfs would deliver only 10 percent less water annually.

That's not a significant loss, he said, from a project expected to deliver more than 4 million acre-feet annually. And the \$8 billion saved could be spent on other water projects that would more than make up the difference.

The \$17 billion dual-tunnel project is intended to create a bypass for freshwater exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an estuary that provides freshwater for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland.

For decades, this water has been diverted using massive pumps at the southern edge of the South Delta, near the town of Tracy. The pumps kill millions of native fish and are powerful enough to reverse the Delta's natural river flows, disrupting habitat and causing water quality problems.

The tunnels would switch diversions to a location 40 miles upstream on the Sacramento River. This would prevent the reverse-flow conditions and, with modern fish screens in place, would reduce the fish kill.

Gartrell's single-tunnel idea was subsequently embraced by a number of environmental groups as a promising solution to the Delta's troubles.

In 2010, the Planning and Conservation League released a package of eight water solutions for California that included a single Delta tunnel.

Then in 2013, the Natural Resources Defense Council released its so-called portfolio-based alternative, which supported a single Delta tunnel along with numerous regional water-supply projects.

Russell van Loben Sels is a longtime Delta farmer who opposes California's WaterFix proposal, which includes building one of three intakes on farmland he owns near Courtland. Support has grown for single-tunnel option, which would require just one intake. (Randall Benton, Sacramento Bee)

If the state had chosen to pursue a single tunnel years ago, said NRDC attorney Doug Obegi, it's likely construction could have been well underway by now given its smaller size and fewer logistical and environmental complications.

"It does seem like a missed opportunity," Obegi said. "We've wasted significant time and millions of dollars studying this larger project that doesn't make sense economically or ecologically."

The question now is, what would be required now to embrace a single tunnel as a serious alternative?

The state did include a single tunnel (known as alternatives 5 and 5A) among its formal alternatives in the final environmental impact study adopted in December 2016. This alternative called for a single intake on the Sacramento River and a single tunnel with a capacity of 3,000cfs. This single tunnel would follow the same approximate route under the Delta as the dual-tunnel project.

The state estimated in 2013 this single-tunnel alternative would cost \$8.6 billion – about \$8 billion less than the dual tunnels.

Officials at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have said they are open to considering a single tunnel.

The district is the largest water agency to support the more costly dual-tunnel project so far.

"We're always willing to talk about it," Roger Patterson, Met's assistant general manager, told Water Deeply in December. "I get it: In order to get something done, you gotta do horse trading. But it also still has to work."

the smaller, single-tunnel alternative was investigated sufficiently by the state to become its new project choice. Obegi said it was not, and much deeper analysis will likely be required.

"How it would be operated is really the most important thing in determining whether this is something that would be OK for the environment or would be detrimental for the Delta," he said. "There's very little to nothing that has been said about how they would operate a smaller facility."

Such details may be moot, because the state Department of Water Resources is still officially wedded to the \$17 billion dual-tunnel project, said spokeswoman Erin Mellon.

"DWR is continuing to advance WaterFix as it is currently structured: A two-tunnel project with three intakes with a combined capacity of 9,000 cfs," she said.

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16578110/la-river-bike-path-canoga-park-studio-city>

Inflatable dams and a water wheel: Latest plan to revitalize the LA River

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-river-rubber-dams-20171030-htmstory.html>

Gehry says transformation of LA River into a green oasis will never happen

<https://archpaper.com/2017/10/gehry-los-angeles-river-never-happen/>

Economic Development:

\$54 Million Hollywood Development Breaks Ground

<https://www.mltihousingnews.com/post/54m-hollywood-development-breaks-ground/>

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

LAUSD's homeless student population grew by 50% last year. Here's why

<http://laschoolreport.com/lausds-homeless-student-population-grew-by-50-last-year-heres-why/>

Harvard Westlake School drops sports center construction fight

<https://mynews1a.com/education/2017/10/30/harvard-westlake-school-drops-sports-center-construction-fight/>

Harvard-Westlake Shelves Controversial Parking Lot/ Sky Bridge On Hold And Acquires Nearby Golf Course

http://laist.com/2017/10/30/harvard_westlake_parking.php

Harvard-Westlake buying Studio City golf course, may halt controversial parking project

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/30/harvard-westlake-buying-studio-city-golf-course-may-halt-controversial-parking-project/>

Harvard Westlake buying 16 acres of LA river adjacent land in Studio City

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16573952/harvard-westlake-parking-la-river>

Harvard Westlake Buys Land For Parking

<http://sfvbj.com/news/2017/oct/30/land-buy-resolves-harvard-westlake-parking-controv/>

World Series fever may be affecting LA Unified students

<http://www.latimes.com/la-sp-high-school-sports-updates-world-series-fever-may-be-affecting-1509403793-htmstory.html>

LA Unified says PLC Schools should have unearthed alleged Rodriguez conflict three years ago

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-edu-la-united-faults-puc-and-rodriguez-20171030-story.html>

Homelessness & Poverty:

They approve portable toilet system for homeless people

<https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/aprueban-sistema-de-banos-portatiles-para-personas-desamparadas/>

Housing:

Rising Rent Burden In Los Angeles

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising/rising-rent-burden-in-los-angeles>

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Riki Esquer

Executive Assistant to Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero

Mayor's Office of City Services

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Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

Fwd: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 8:03 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

[LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees](#)

[LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties](#)

[Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law](#)

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[Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President](#)

[Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices](#)

Daily News

LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council appears set to pass a resolution today that would keep the city pursuing host city duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when some potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council, but those issues appear to have been negated after some sports companies in Los Angeles, including Anschutz Entertainment Group and the Los Angeles Football Club, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract.

The LLC will "absorb all of the potential risks" in hosting, Branamir Kvartuc, a spokesman for Councilman Joe Buscaino, told City News Service last week.

Among the problems with the potential host contract was that Los Angeles would be the official host city but the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city — the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising.

"We can't do police support in Inglewood or Pasadena," Kvartuc said.

FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, with the city of L.A. to sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, Kvartuc said.

"Not only could the city be liable for partial performance, or nonperformance, the city could also incur liability for damages resulting from the performance of other governmental entities or private parties," the city staff report said.

As a result of the contract problems, Council President Herb Wesson never scheduled a vote for the host city agreement, according to Kvartuc, but Mayor Eric Garcetti intervened and asked the United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid, to extend a deadline so the contract issues could be worked out.

A spokeswoman for Wesson did not respond to a request to comment, but Wesson was one of the eight council members who signed the new resolution, which is scheduled to be voted on by the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee, immediately followed by a vote by the full City Council.

In the last two weeks since the extension was granted, the LLC has been formed, and the cities of Inglewood and Pasadena have also provided letters of support to serve as potential venue hosts, Kvartuc said. The resolution under consideration by the City Council says the city will work "in good faith" with the host committee to negotiate a contract specifying the types and level of city services to be provided by the city for 2026 World Cup events.

If the North American bid is successful, the United States would stage 60 matches, and Mexico and Canada 10 apiece, and at least 12 cities will be selected as venues for games. The LATCB said in a report that any one host city could generate \$400 million to \$600 million in total economic impact as a result of serving as a World Cup host.

NBC Los Angeles

LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution Tuesday that keeps the city pursuing host duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council. But those issues appeared to be resolved when local sports companies, including the Anschutz Entertainment Group, the Los Angeles Football Club and the Los Angeles Rams, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract. Among the concerns that had arisen before the LLC was created was that while Los Angeles would be the official host city, the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city -- the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising. The formation of the LLC allows the city "to ease some of the risks that we'll take on if a game or match is not held in the city of L.A.," Councilman Joe Buscaino said before the vote.

Approval of the resolution, and a second agreement between Los Angeles World Airports and the United States Soccer Federation over airport obligations for any FIFA events, was far from routine, with several council members voicing concerns during a debate that went on for nearly two hours.

The two biggest concerns expressed were that the LLC only officially formed Tuesday and the council had not seen the actual LLC documents, and that the LAWA agreement gives FIFA the power to make unilateral changes.

The resolution was approved on a 14-1 vote, while the LAWA agreement was passed with an 11-4 vote. Councilman Mitch O'Farrell cast the lone vote against the resolution. The council also voted 11-4 against an amendment to the LAWA agreement introduced by O'Farrell that would have asked the Board of Airport Commissioners to renegotiate with U.S. Soccer and remove the clause that gave FIFA, as a third party in the contract, unilateral power to change it down the road. Council members Mike Bonin, David Ryu and Bob Blumenfield voted with O'Farrell on the LAWA votes.

The United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid for the World Cup, had already granted two extensions to Los Angeles to work out its issues with the host agreements, and the second deadline expires Wednesday, which put the council under the gun to approve the documents.

"There's just not enough information and security in knowing that we're prepared to make the best decision at this moment with tomorrow's looming deadline for these votes we're about to take, so I just wanted to raise that concern," O'Farrell said. "I wish we had a better process legislatively quite frankly. I'm just not comfortable with this."

The council ultimately sided with the arguments of Councilman Paul Krekorian, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who laid out a detailed analysis of why he believed the risks in the agreements were minimal compared to the potential rewards. He cited statistics from the Los Angeles Trade and Convention Bureau, which estimated the event could have a \$400 million to \$600 million total economic impact in the area if Los Angeles serves as a World Cup host. Krekorian also pointed out that the LLC would relieve the city from any serious liability related to the bid.

"As we've talked it through I've gone from thinking, 'Oh we really don't have enough before us, I'm really a little apprehensive' -- and you guys know I'm not one that's really afraid to ask questions about things, you know I'm usually the fly in the ointment on these things, but as we talked it through I'm just not seeing that it's that big of a risk," he said. FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, while the city would sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, officials said.

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Fox Business

Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law

By Steve Peoples

Republicans spent much of the last decade firing up their base with a vow to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. But when it came to doing the deed, they found promises much easier than execution.

Democrats may be starting down the same path on taxes.

From New Mexico to New York, high-profile liberals are calling for the repeal of the Republican tax plan that President Donald Trump signed into law just two months ago. They're betting big that the message will resonate with voters in the midterm elections in November and provide the sort of clear, populist economic message some Democrats worry has been missing. But others, including red-state Democrats, are clearly queasy about the strategy, mindful that repealing a government benefit once it takes hold is far easier said than done — and not always popular.

When pressed, some leading Democrats conceded that they'd repeal only certain portions of the tax law despite the implication that they'd go further.

read about Spectre and Meltdown—two new major security flaws affecting billions of computers, laptops, cell phones, servers, and cloud operating systems made in the last two decades.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a 2016 presidential candidate who appeared last weekend in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan as part of the "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, said "No" three times in an AP interview when asked whether he backed full repeal.

"I think what we have got to do is sit down and take a look at what kind of tax benefits would work best for small business, for working families and the middle class," Sanders said. "But what we must repeal completely is tax breaks that go to billionaires and to profitable large corporations that are in some cases are paying very little in taxes right now."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who may seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 and was also featured on the repeal tour, offered a more aggressive position.

"Repeal this tax bill," Garcetti said. "It was passed by, and for, the Washington crowd and their rich friends. Corporations and billionaires are doing just fine."

The messaging challenge comes as the Republican tax overhaul emerges as a central issue in this year's midterm elections. More than health care, guns, or immigration, Republicans and Democrats both have embraced the tax debate. Each side believes it has the winning argument in a battle that will decide the balance of power in Washington for the last two years of Trump's first term.

The conservative Koch brothers' political network has already begun spending millions of dollars on TV ads and grassroots events to help improve the plan's popularity.

While Trump and many conservative leaders cheered the tax overhaul, it was among the least popular pieces of legislation in modern history when it became law in December. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for the tax plan, which overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy, but included modest savings for many middle-class and lower-income Americans.

"I would urge Democrats to embrace repeal. It is a simple clean message. It also captures essentially what most Democrats feel about this bill: It's bad," said Nicole Gill, whose liberal group, Tax March, coordinated the ongoing "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, which in addition to Sanders and Garcetti has already featured appearances from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic National Committee Deputy Chairman Keith Ellison and at least 16 other members of Congress in recent weeks. The tour runs through mid-April.

Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who leads Senate Democrats' 2018 campaign efforts, encouraged all of his party's candidates, even the most vulnerable, to embrace their opposition to the tax law.

"Our members will be talking to these issues," Van Hollen said. "It doesn't matter if you're a red state or a blue state, the idea of running up the debt by \$1.5 trillion and cutting Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for big corporations and the wealthy is not popular."

So far, at least, red-state Democrats are quick to say they would not repeal the law if given the chance, in what is a far more cautious approach than some party strategists and blue-state officials would like.

"I think there's a lot of good things in the tax bill. I just think they went a little too far on some things," said West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who is running for re-election this fall in a state Trump won by 42 points.

Manchin, for example, said he wanted the corporate tax rate placed at 25 percent and he would not have voted to repeal the health coverage mandate.

"No, I wouldn't vote to repeal it. I'm not that type of a person," he said in an interview, adding that he had a similar philosophy on Obama's health care overhaul: Fix it, rather than repeal.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, a state Trump won by 20 points, said he understands that some constituents will benefit from the tax law. He said headlines about bonuses are "all positive" as far as he's concerned.

"There's portions of the tax bill that actually made sense," he said in an interview. "But the thing is, who pays for it? And it's our kids."

During the bill signing in December, Trump highlighted the corporate tax cut in particular, which was dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent. Companies such as Apple, Walmart, Cisco and Pepsi will save hundreds of millions of dollars and sent some of the savings to workers in the form of bonuses and pay increases, but much more went to corporate executives and other shareholders. The bill also lowered the tax rates for each income level and doubled the standard deduction.

Most Americans, but not all, will save money on their tax bills in the coming years, with wealthier taxpayers saving the most. The individual tax cuts will expire in 2025, while the business cuts are permanent.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat elected three months ago, suggested that it didn't matter much whether Democrats promised outright repeal or major improvements as they campaign against the Republican tax law this fall. "Whether you take an approach of repealing or taking a piece of legislation that you can improve upon — it's the same thing (with) the Affordable Care Act — nothing's perfect," Northam said.

LA Observed

Some data for Garcetti before selecting next LAPD chief

By Fernando Guerra

Los Angeles' political history is more intricately entwined with that of its police department than any other American city, which will make Mayor Eric Garcetti's decision on who replaces retiring LAPD Chief Charlie Beck's one of his most consequential.

As social scientists committed to non-partisan analysis of life as it's currently lived in our city, we at Loyola Marymount's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles hope the mayor and his appointed police commissioners will work toward a decision informed not only by the usual City Hall interests, but also by the wealth of

empirical data available concerning residents' views on LAPD and its policies.

There is no need to rehash here the long and, generally, unhappy interplay of LA's enmeshed histories of politics and policing. They long were marked on the one hand by civic corruption and cowardice and on the other by the department's political manipulations, indifference to constitutional rights and an abusive relationship with minority Angelenos, particularly African Americans, that sparked two of the most deadly and destructive urban riots in U.S. history. Suffice to say that, over recent decades, the two forces that have altered Los Angeles most fundamentally for the better have been demographic change toward vibrant diversity and real police reform.

Since the city's acceptance of a 2002 federal consent decree requiring a radical departmental overhaul, the LAPD has been led by William Bratton and Beck, a pair of genuine "reform chiefs" committed to constitutional policing. Both also are believers in community policing based on the late James Q. Wilson's "broken windows" theory, which advocates using officers proactively to curtail street-level disorder and incivility as presumed precursors of more serious offenses. As a result nearly all serious crimes have fallen to rates unseen since the Great Depression, and LAPD's relations with the communities it serves are better than they've been in historic memory.

Selecting a new chief who will build on that progress will challenge Garcetti and his appointed police commissioners to take the measure not only of the candidates, but also of the collective civic sentiments about the quality and effectiveness of today's LAPD. Based on public opinion research conducted by the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, there's a great deal to be said about the latter, some of which many may find surprising.

Slightly more than seven out of every 10 Angelenos feel LAPD currently is doing an "excellent" or "good" job. An overwhelming 85% of the city's residents rate their police services as fair or better, and 42% describe them as "good." Similarly, 82% approve of the department's "conduct and professionalism."

Despite those historically low crime rates, however, half of residents characterize the city's "crime and safety" situation as only "fair," while only 17% describe it as "good." African Americans and Latinos are most likely to perceive crime and safety as "poor"--by 41% and 47% margins, respectively--while Asians and whites are most inclined to see the situation as "good"--24% and 23%, respectively. Women are most likely to see the crime and safety situation as "poor"--43%--though fully 47% rate it as "fair." By a 14% margin, men are most inclined to view the situation as "good."

Paradoxically, 78% of residents say they would recommend their neighborhood as safe to "someone interested in moving in." Fully seven out of 10 say they would recommend the city as a whole as "safe" to somebody contemplating moving here.

When it comes to public perceptions of the two reform chiefs, Bratton's performance was approved by 74% of residents, while Beck's performance was perceived favorably by 59%. Asians were the most likely residents to approve of Bratton's performance--96%--while blacks were most inclined to disapprove at 41% who either "somewhat" or "strongly" took a negative view of his performance. Bratton's approval rating was equally high among women and men with more than seven out of 10 residents of both genders approving the way he conducted himself. Beck's performance as chief is strongly approved by both whites--65%--and Latinos--58%. However, more than six out of 10 African American residents either "somewhat" or "strongly" disapprove of the way he's done his job.

Negative perceptions in the black community may mirror recent criticism of Beck's handling of police shootings by Black Lives Matter, a group that another of our surveys found is supported by fully 68% of the city's residents. Similarly, some of Bratton's higher rating may be attributable to his skills as a communicator, which are the best of any big city chief in recent memory; Beck, by contrast, is a more understated "cop's cop," who "bleeds blue" and has deep familial roots in the department.

Garcetti will be approaching his decision on Beck's replacement from a relatively strong political position of his own, since 56% of L.A.'s residents assign his performance on crime and public safety an A or B grade, and his rating in this area has climbed by 12 percentage points over the past two years.

The mayor and his commissioners will have to weigh the obvious questions: Would an outsider or LAPD veteran be best positioned to build on the reformers' progress? While our surveys do not find any strong sentiment for a chief of any particular ethnicity, they do suggest that someone with strong communication skills and a willingness to build greater trust among African Americans would be a good candidate. From an historic standpoint, there never has been a Latino chief nor a woman, and first's tend to build good will and political capital.

KTTLA

Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

In 2015, 74 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.

Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department.

In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.

LA Times

Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly

By Laura Nelson

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

In 2015, 14 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.

Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department.

In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.

The 6% decline in 2017 falls well short of that goal, and the city's slow progress suggests reducing fatalities by half in the next three years will be difficult.

"Every life is important and we must keep pushing to do better," Garcetti said Tuesday in a statement to The Times, saying he was proud the city had reduced deaths overall in 2017. "Safety is our top priority, and we will continue to set bold goals."

The 2017 statistics were included in a report scheduled to be discussed Wednesday at a City Council transportation committee hearing.

The L.A. data are on par with national trends, which show that more pedestrians are dying, and drivers are more distracted, Transportation Department spokesman Oliver Hou said in an email.

Figures on traffic deaths across the country are not yet available for 2017, but in the previous year, pedestrian deaths rose 9% nationally and 42% in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles officials spent more than a year studying collision data to pinpoint the city's most dangerous streets for pedestrians and cyclists, and worked in 2017 to make changes along 40 of those corridors. Many are broad thoroughfares, including North Broadway in Chinatown, 3rd Street in Koreatown and Sepulveda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley.

Officials have focused on those areas because pedestrians and cyclists represent an outsize number of the city's traffic fatalities. From 2012 to 2016, people on foot were involved in 8% of the traffic collisions in L.A. but represented 44% of the deaths, the Transportation Department said.

Last year, the city made 1,120 changes to streets and intersections, Hou said. Hundreds of crosswalks were modified, including four that now allow pedestrians to cross all directions at once, and 144 digital signs were installed that tell drivers their speeds.

Speed is often the determining factor in whether someone survives a car crash. When struck by a car moving at 20 mph, a pedestrian has a 90% chance of survival, but when hit by a vehicle going 40 mph, the chance of survival falls to 20%, according to a federal study of crash data.

The city also changed the timing on 67 traffic lights to give pedestrians the walk signal several seconds before drivers receive a green light. That change — known as a "leading pedestrian interval" — is designed to cut down on drivers hitting pedestrians in crosswalks.

The increase in pedestrian deaths isn't surprising for anyone who walks in Los Angeles and has had a near miss with a speeding driver, said Emilia Crotty, executive director of Los Angeles Walks, a pedestrian advocacy organization.

Projects that have been shown to reduce pedestrian injuries, including so-called "scramble crosswalks" that allow people to cross in all directions, should not be delayed by concerns about commute times from local officials, Crotty said.

The most high-profile street safety project in 2017, along a handful of streets on L.A.'s Westside, sparked a wave of protests from residents and commuters, two lawsuits and an effort to recall Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents the area. Eventually, the city reversed most of the improvements.

The advocates who fought the Playa del Rey project said they were interested in helping other local groups fight street changes that would affect commute times in other parts of the city. Street safety advocates worried that the backlash could set the Vision Zero effort back by several years.

The city "learned some very hard lessons" last year, Crotty said. "We need our City Council members to champion this issue like the life-and-death situation that it is. Whatever negative pushback there is — perhaps from some drivers — this is what we need to protect the most vulnerable people in our neighborhoods."

Washington Times

Normalizing The Chaos In California

By Tammy Bruce

Liberal policy failure is all around us and destroys lives every day. In California, the destruction of society and individual lives has become so overwhelming, the state's liberal overseers now spend their time covering up where they can and normalizing the chaos as much as possible.

Since 2013, when now-liberal icon Eric Garcetti was elected mayor of Los Angeles, and the nation had just re-elected Barack Obama as president, Los Angeles' homeless population skyrocketed 46 percent. During the Obama years, where unchallenged liberalism was pushed and accepted (wrongly) as the new normal, we saw the leftist economic menace rage through the entire nation, destroying businesses and the full-time jobs that went with them.

In California, the destruction is particularly acute. As the social structure in major cities continues to break down, the state focuses on banning plastic straws, whether to release from prison a mass murderer from the Manson family, while cheering at becoming as sanctuary state.

Just this week, the Los Angeles Times issued an editorial titled, "Los Angeles homeless crisis is a national disgrace."

Actually, it's not — it's a California disgrace. The editorial exemplifies the refusal of liberals to not just admit their responsibility to social destruction, but an inability to even relate to reality.

The Times editorial board chided, in part, "Today, a greater and greater proportion of people living on the streets are there because of bad luck or a series of mistakes, or because the economy forgot them — they lost a job or were evicted or

ned an abusive marriage just as the housing market was growing increasingly unforgiving."

They refer to the "economy" as though it's a mean thing with a life of its own, and simply "forgot" people. There's no need to consider the actual people in charge of policy and the economy. That lost job, or domestic strife, a mean housing market are all pointed at, as though they were all dropped on earth by Martians.

LA Times

Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President

To the editor: Thanks to the Los Angeles Times for addressing the city's homelessness problem and calling it what it really is: a national disgrace. ("Los Angeles' homelessness crisis is a national disgrace," editorial, Feb. 25)

Not a single person in the city, the county or the entire Los Angeles region would disagree with your assessment.

And while we all sit back and watch the crises continue to grow, Mayor Eric Garcetti, apparently campaigning for higher office, is out making speeches in South Carolina, spending less time than he should trying to end the catastrophe in his own backyard.

Just shameful.

Mario Rochin, Studio City

To the editor: Though the brilliantly written clarion call that was this Sunday's full-page editorial about the staggering homelessness crisis in this city and county was years late in coming, it was heartening to see it there blazing with urgency.

This is not the job of just politicians and social workers to face and overcome; it is the responsibility of every single citizen to get involved in whatever meaningful way we can. Any society that allows so many of our fellow humans to suffer so badly is morally bankrupt and cruel.

Let's each of us become part of the solution.

Walter Dominguez, Los Angeles

To the editor: I am guilty of looking the other way, of rolling up my windows from downtown Los Angeles to Beverly Hills and West L.A. I have become irritated, disgusted and angry.

Sunday's editorial should make those of us that have looked the other way feel a sense of guilt.

We have elected people to office to take care of these issues, and they have failed us. We have failed for not doing our part.

We need leadership to give us all direction of what each of us can do.

Thank you, Times Editorial Board.

Daniel S. Mitrovich, Culver City

To the editor: I wonder how many of your print readers glanced, horrified at the headline and the grim pictures of your editorial, and simply closed the Main News section and picked up the Calendar or Arts and Books section while putting such grim realism immediately to one side.

I was one of those readers, but I finally forced myself to go back and read your excellent and heart-wrenching editorial.

Good God, what does it take to give a helping hand, rather than a buck here and there, or to force our "thoughts and prayers" politicians to do something, anything, worthwhile?

Charles Ruebsamen, Rancho Cucamonga

Daily Breeze

Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices

By Elizabeth Chou

Veteran city official Rich Llewellyn will serve in Los Angeles' top post, advising the council and the mayor on their options for tackling major challenges that lay ahead, including the city's growing homeless crisis and infrastructure needs.

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday voted 15-0 to confirm the mayor's appointment of Llewellyn as the City Administrative Officer. One of the key roles of the position is to work with the council and the mayor on developing a city budget each year.

The CAO also represents city leaders in labor negotiations with municipal employee unions, including those that represent police officers, firefighters and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power workers.

Llewellyn told the council that his role is to help city leaders "make hard choices," whether it has to do with public safety, homelessness or other matters.

He said he will strive to serve as an "independent" voice, and "sometimes we just have to say no," which means "you need to make even harder choices."

"And we're there to help you," he said.

The CAO's office also coordinates the city's homeless initiatives and strategies, including the construction of permanent supportive housing and mobile restroom programs.

"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real. We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."

— Rich Llewellyn, newly confirmed L.A. City Administrative Officer

Llewellyn, who has filled the CAO post on an interim basis for the past year, told council members earlier this week that several challenges lay ahead for the city, including the ability to "still deliver service, when we have all these pressing needs and not enough money to do it."

Llewellyn said department general managers are tasked with coming up with ways their staff can "to do their jobs cheaper, faster and more efficiently every day."

He said his staff are eyeing an anticipated downturn in the economy, which may affect the city's revenues and the ability

address the city's biggest challenges, such as homelessness and its "tremendous infrastructure needs."

"We're all worried about when the economy is going to slow, and whether it's going to be a dive or a lull," he said. "Most economists seem to believe it's going to be a slowdown, not a dive, but we certainly don't want to go back there."

He said other pressures on the city include the "rising gap between the rich and poor, which is ultimately driving us down in Los Angeles, and we just have to figure out a way around it."

"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real," he added. "We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."

One area the city has made some headway on is reducing liability costs, according to Llewellyn.

Llewellyn started working for the city 17 years ago in 2001, first as chief of staff for then-councilman Eric Garcetti. He then went on to manage City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's office. He also led Councilman Paul Koretz's staff, before being tapped again by Garcetti to lead the staffing of his mayoral office and his legal team. Prior to going to the city, he spent about 12 years with the county working for District Attorney Gil Garcetti — Eric Garcetti's father — and County Supervisor Edmund Edelman.

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Fwd: FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Fri, May 18, 2018 at 8:39 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

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LA Times

Koreatown needs a homeless shelter. It also needs city officials to learn from the mistakes of the past

By: Joon Bang

"Dowajuseyo." In Korean, it means "help me."

A few months ago, I received a call from an L.A. County mental health facility. They had just taken a frail Korean grandmother into their care, and officials couldn't figure out what to do with her. In her 70s, with a full head of gray hair, the woman probably weighed no more than 85 pounds and had been living on the streets after being evicted from her Koreatown home. She was afraid to be alone in a facility with people who were unable to communicate with her and wanted to be released.

As executive director of the Korean American Coalition, I often find myself in this somewhat fraught position — a bridge between the limited-English-speaking Korean immigrant community and the service providers who have the resources to help them. I spoke with the grandmother's family, who told me that their financial hardship made their grandmother's mental illness difficult to manage on their own. I tried again and again to broker some kind of arrangement. Ultimately, we were unable to find a solution. The grandmother was released to the streets. She's currently among a growing number of Korean American seniors who are experiencing homelessness.

Koreatown is changing.

The area has long been a symbol for the Korean American and immigrant story. It is a place of identity and pride for a community that believes in hard work and sacrifice. But in just the past two years, the city of Los Angeles has approved over 50 new Koreatown development projects — the majority of them hotels and luxury rentals — in what is the densest and arguably the most socioeconomically diverse community in all of California. Though you don't hear much about it, homelessness is increasing at a rapid rate. I've heard stories of a hidden Korean American homeless community that uses 24-hour spas to stay off the streets and sleeps in the pews of local churches.

In 2017, in an effort to figure out just how widespread this problem is, our organization filmed a documentary called "Invisible Neighbors" on the topic. The results were disturbing enough that, this year, we partnered with homelessness experts from the United Way, EPATH, Homeless Health Care, Rand and USC, as well as representatives from L.A. City Council District 10. Our goal was to develop a process to count the invisible ethnic Korean homeless population, identify the causes of its spread and brainstorm possible solutions to the growing issue.

After three months of preparation, this effort was scheduled to launch in May. But everything came to a halt when L.A. announced plans to build a new homeless shelter in Koreatown. It caught everyone off guard, especially longtime residents and small shop owners who were unaware and uninformed of the plan to put a shelter in the heart of Koreatown's economic corridor, where many business owners are quietly experiencing a financial downturn.

After speaking with various members of the community, I feel confident saying the protests occurred not because we don't want temporary or supportive housing for those struggling with homelessness. These protests were a direct response to being left out of the process — unable to ask questions and work together with the city to find the best location.

There's also a deeper context here. For many Koreatown residents, a deep sense of distrust of local government exists.

Over 1,700 businesses were destroyed, leaving residents and small businesses to pick up the pieces and rebuild on their own. Koreatown may look like a hip place to eat and play, but for many, it remains a symbol of the difficult Korean American journey.

City officials have since acknowledged their community outreach should have been better. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson are working with community leaders to educate the public on the details of the project and address concerns.

That's important, because the truth is that more and more Korean Americans and Koreatown residents need access to homeless services — and this is an opportunity to get them that help.

At first glance, the appearance of a homeless shelter may seem like a threat to our identity and culture of hard work and resilience. But the reality is that our community is changing — and has been for some time. Be it the high cost of living, lack of affordable housing, a rapidly growing elderly population or threats to immigration status, Korean Americans are indeed amongst the homeless. We have a responsibility to take care of them.

Wherever a shelter ends up being located, we must ensure it delivers on its promises — not only for the community, but, more importantly, for the sake of those who will be sleeping there.

"Dowajuseyo." Help me.

As Angelenos, we need to step up together and answer the call.

LA Times

A closer look at the three finalists for LAPD chief

By: Cindy Chang and James Queally

As young cops, the three finalists for chief of the Los Angeles Police Department were taught a harsh style of policing that emphasized crackdowns and arrests.

They have since disavowed that strategy, rising through the ranks of a department that has recast itself as a kinder, gentler LAPD. All three use similar catchphrases: building ties with residents, investing in youth sports and academic programs, assuring immigrants that the LAPD wants to help them, not deport them.

But for the official making the selection, Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is considering a run for president, each of the veteran cops brings political benefits.

Robert Arcos would be the first Latino police chief of a city that is nearly 50% Latino. Bill Scott, who left the LAPD to lead the troubled San Francisco Police Department, is African American and a familiar face in South Los Angeles.

Michel Moore, whose father was a Basque immigrant, was already in the top echelons of the LAPD when the other two candidates were appointed to their first station commands. LAPD insiders say his breadth of experience and mastery of subjects from crime statistics to budgets are second to none.

Arcos has the backing of some powerful Latino politicians, while a coalition of African American pastors and community activists is supporting Scott.

Garcetti received the names of the three finalists, chosen by the city's civilian Police Commission from a field of 31 applicants, on May 4. He has said that he expects to pick the new chief by the end of the month, if not sooner — well in advance of Chief Charlie Beck's June 27 retirement. The City Council will then vote on Garcetti's choice.

In selecting three men with decades of experience in the LAPD, the commission signaled its desire to stay the course set by Beck and his predecessor, William Bratton, who remade the department under a federal consent decree. Among the challenges the new chief will face: how to improve relationships with some black and Latino residents, who are critical of fatal police shootings and complain about bearing the brunt of the LAPD's enforcement operations.

Garcetti has said he wants to choose the best leader and is not aiming for a demographic first. Several City Council members had indicated that it was time for the leader of one of the largest police departments in the country to be a woman. But former Assistant Chief Sandy Jo MacArthur, who was among five candidates interviewed by the commission, did not make the final three.

"It's a nice, diverse pool, with the exception of no female," said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. "It reflects L.A., and it reflects the new LAPD."

Arcos, 57, moved to L.A. from Texas with his mother and four younger siblings when he was 10. The family eventually settled in Atwater Village, then a working-class, mostly minority community where young men faced pressure to join gangs. His mother struggled financially, sometimes relying on food stamps.

Later, as a sergeant at the station that polices his old neighborhood, Arcos ran into childhood friends who had been arrested by his colleagues.

"My story is very similar to many of the kids in underserved communities," Arcos said. "That gives me a connection and empathy to realize where people are when they're at their most vulnerable and low."

Scott Kroeber was the captain of the elite Metropolitan Division in 2005, when Arcos came in as a lieutenant charged with implementing changes recommended by top brass.

Kroeber remembers Arcos as a "people-oriented" manager who cared so much about his police officers that he would agonize over what degree of discipline to give them. As an outsider to Metro's insular culture, Arcos did not force the changes down officers' throats and gradually won them over.

"He's that rare individual who strikes the happy medium — we need to go there, and let's bring people along to do it willingly," said Kroeber, who retired in 2013.

After his Metro assignment, Arcos made captain, serving as second-in-command at Olympic Division and then the officer in charge at 77th. Beck promoted him quickly to commander. He worked at administrative services and Central Bureau before taking charge of Central in 2016 as a deputy chief.

At Central, which includes downtown and Northeast L.A., Arcos often manages large street demonstrations. The area is also the epicenter of L.A.'s worsening homelessness crisis.

As chief, Arcos said, he would enhance the department's de-escalation training so officers make different choices in a situation where "you can shoot, but should you?"

"It's time for another cultural shift," Arcos said. "Our policies have to reflect the community's values."

Arcos is a third-generation Mexican American who understands some Spanish but does not speak it fluently.

At a time when "the Trump administration has declared war on our immigrant communities," Arcos is a "once in a lifetime" leader who has "challenged the status quo and embraced modern, non-traditional policing," City Councilman Gil Cedillo wrote in an endorsement letter to Garcetti, which was also signed by former council members Gloria Molina, Richard Alatorre, Mike Hernandez and Ed Reyes.

In 2006, while Arcos was a lieutenant in Metro, his daughter Chelsea killed two people in a drunk driving accident on the 5 Freeway. The LAPD launched an Internal Affairs investigation into an allegation that Arcos asked the probation department to alter a report in his daughter's favor. The investigation eventually cleared Arcos, and he denies wrongdoing.

David Pokorny, the lead California Highway Patrol investigator in the case, said he has no proof that Arcos put pressure on the probation department. But in an interview with The Times last week, he called the Internal Affairs investigation a "massive coverup." Pokorny, who is now retired, said that investigators never interviewed him, even though he was central to the case.

After Pokorny warned Chelsea Arcos' attorney that the probation report was flawed, the attorney never presented it in court, Pokorny told The Times.

Chelsea Arcos was convicted of two counts of vehicular manslaughter, among other crimes, and sentenced to seven years in prison.

"I never tried to mitigate it, minimize it or excuse it," Robert Arcos said of his daughter's actions. "She got what she deserved."

In 2015, after her release from prison, Chelsea Arcos pleaded no contest to driving under the influence in another incident and was sentenced to an alcohol treatment program and 60 days in jail. Her previous convictions could not legally be used to upgrade the charge from a misdemeanor to a felony, said a spokeswoman from the L.A. County District Attorney's Office.

defendants and alleges Arcos used his position to get his daughter a light sentence.

Arcos' attorney has moved to dismiss the case, arguing that the parents are not legally liable for their daughter's actions.

"I had nothing to do with it. I had no influence. She's an adult," Arcos said.

Arcos and his wife have spoken at high schools about their daughter's experience. At the LAPD, Arco has warned police officers who have gotten DUIs about the devastating consequences of drinking and driving.

"I never want anybody to experience this, as a parent, a sibling, a close friend, ever," he said.

Michel Moore

Moore, 57, was among the finalists for LAPD chief in 2009. The Police Commission ranked him highest of the three, but Beck got the job. Moore has made no secret about his desire to lead a police department and was recently a finalist for the top jobs in Dallas and San Diego.

As a boy growing up with six siblings, Moore moved constantly while his parents looked for work. He remembers a Christmas night in Flint, Mich., when officials came to repossess the family station wagon. In Arkansas, his stepfather suggested that he stop using his Basque last name, Sanchotena, because of the racial prejudice there. He has been Michel Moore ever since, with "Michel" pronounced like "Michael."

Moore, who is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, said he identifies as the son of an immigrant and views policing through that lens. Otherwise, he said, he is "one of billions."

As a young police officer, Moore pulled the trigger in two fatal shootings. At that point, he said, he was happy to join the department's DARE program and teach kids about the dangers of drugs. Later, as a sergeant, Moore got his first taste of the wonky data crunching he would become known for, creating the department's first automated crime-mapping system.

After stints in internal affairs, Wilshire Division and vice, he was tapped to lead Rampart Division in 1998, the day after Rafael Perez was arrested in a corruption scandal that came to define the department. Officers in Rampart thought Perez was wrongly accused, Moore said. As a newly minted captain, he had to persuade them to abandon the "Rampart way" and start doing things the LAPD way.

Under Bratton, Moore was deputy chief of West Bureau and then Valley Bureau. In 2010, Beck promoted him to assistant chief — a rung below chief. He rotated through special operations, which includes detectives, counterterrorism and SWAT; administrative services, including the behind-the-scenes realms of budget, personnel and training; and his current position, patrol operations.

Moore is by all accounts a demanding boss who expects his subordinates to be as versed in every detail as he is. Whether you view Moore as a driven leader or a micromanager depends on whether you are ready to rise to his level, said Capt. Jay Roberts, who was Moore's adjutant.

"He taught me about juggling 1,600 balls at the same time," Roberts said. "I was kept on my toes for three years — he held me accountable."

At the LAPD's weekly Compstat meetings, Moore asks detailed questions of station captains but does not humiliate them. He emails the topics he will cover — whether robberies, burglaries or auto thefts — to the captains in advance. He said he wants to work with them to find solutions to seemingly impossible problems.

"As a former captain, I have an appreciation for the pressures and challenges they're under," Moore said. "I've seen other people putting on Compstat ... and embarrassing the hell out of the captains."

Moore has been at the forefront of the LAPD's efforts to reduce fatal shootings by encouraging officers to use Tasers and beanbag shotguns. He recently proposed a system to quantify positive community interactions such as public meetings and roll calls held on city streets.

"It's not just enforcement — crime suppression, getting guns off the street," Moore said. "It's engagement — being in church pews, working foot beats."

Moore, who lives in Santa Clarita, said he will move to L.A. if he becomes chief.

"To represent a city of 4 million, I think it speaks to being fully vested in the outcomes of what happens in the city," he said

The Political Action Committee of the Mexican American Bar Assn. has endorsed Moore as the most qualified candidate for police chief.

"The City of Los Angeles is made up of many diverse communities and Assistant Chief Moore has the knowledge, background, and expertise that is superior to any other candidate in working with all minority groups," Felipe Plascencia, the group's president, wrote in a letter to Garcetti.

A similarly named but unrelated group, the Mexican American Bar Assn., is supporting Arcos.

Bill Scott

Scott was raised in a military family, eventually settling in Birmingham, Ala. Some of his relatives who were active in the civil rights movement were sprayed with fire hoses and attacked by police dogs, he said in a 2015 interview with The Times. He kept that historical perspective in mind during his 27 years at the LAPD, particularly when managing volatile relationships between the police and the community in South L.A.

"You cannot say, 'Forget it,'" Scott said. "An 82-year-old African American man grew up in a place where they had to live through some of the things that were happening 50 years ago. They aren't going to forget that, and neither should we."

When homicides skyrocketed in South L.A. in the beginning of 2016, Scott was among the architects of a command center that deployed Metropolitan Division officers to crime hot spots. On many nights, the officers were charged with stopping drivers who had committed traffic violations and then seeing if there was a legal reason to search for drugs or weapons.

That approach, coupled with cooperation from gang intervention workers to stop retaliatory killings, was necessary to reduce the violence, Scott said in a September 2016 interview with The Times, when he was deputy chief of South Bureau. But he also articulated the long-term cost of locking people up.

"If you are an 8-year-old depending on your father to provide for you, and now you see your father going away in handcuffs, who are you going to be mad at? Your father or the police officer who took him away?" he said.

When Scott left for San Francisco at the end of 2016, Beck praised his "tactical skills, intelligence and kindness."

Scott is trying to turn around a department reeling from a racist text message scandal and the controversial police killing of a black man named Mario Woods.

Shortly before Scott's arrival, the U.S. Department of Justice had released a study showing that San Francisco police disproportionately used force against minorities, also stopping and searching them more frequently than whites. Scott is working to implement reforms recommended by the Department of Justice and has pushed to arm all his officers with Tasers.

The San Francisco Police Department has about 2,000 officers, compared with 10,000 at the LAPD.

John Burris, a Bay Area civil rights attorney who represented Woods' relatives, said Scott has an open mind on officer discipline and has sometimes tussled with the city's combative police union.

"He came to meetings early and did not, like other chiefs in the past, automatically assume the police's position," Burris said.

Roberts, the LAPD captain, described Scott as measured and low-key, with a management style that emphasizes collaboration.

"He holds you accountable but in a very friendly way — smiling, laughing, with humor built in," Roberts said. "His strength is that people don't have their guard up when they enter the room. He's able to bridge gaps."

At a news conference earlier this week, some African American community leaders said they were supporting Scott not because of his race but because he can connect with South L.A. residents and understand their uneasy relationship with the LAPD.

"No one knows South L.A. like Bill Scott does," said Najee Ali, president of Project Islamic HOPE. "We want Chief Scott to come back home to his city and his community, because the city needs him and South L.A. needs him."

Departing from recent precedent, Garcetti did not initially release the list of three finalists, citing respect for their confidentiality but the names were reported by The Times using sources with knowledge of the process. The secrecy was

about whether he applied for the job and has not responded to The Times' requests for an interview.

"I'm a man of my word, first and foremost," Scott told ABC7 San Francisco the day his appointment as chief was announced. "My intent is to be here as long as the city and the citizens and people will have me here, and to get the job done."

But with Beck's retirement and the death of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who appointed him, Scott's ambitions turned back to Los Angeles.

LA Times

L.A. transit officials consider Metro-owned sites in Valley, Venice to aid homeless

By: Laura J. Nelson

Los Angeles County transportation officials have identified five properties, including parking lots in the San Fernando Valley and a former bus yard in Venice Beach, that could be used to provide services or temporary housing for Los Angeles County's growing homeless population.

The properties, owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, are either vacant or underused, officials said. It is unclear what services would be provided at the sites or how Metro would address public health, safety and liability concerns.

The list of proposed properties was assembled for Metro's directors, who have pushed to expand the agency's role in addressing the county's homelessness crisis. Riders' negative perceptions of safety and cleanliness on the system are leading reasons behind a decline in ridership, officials have said.

"This is an unprecedented crisis in Los Angeles, and we all — all levels of government, all neighborhoods — need to be treating this as if it were a natural disaster," said Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, the chair of Metro's customer experience committee, during a downtown meeting Thursday.

Similar efforts are underway in the city of Los Angeles, where Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is pursuing a \$20-million initiative to build temporary homeless shelters on city-owned parking lots. The first proposed facility, a 65-bed shelter near Wilshire Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, has sparked an outcry from Koreatown residents.

Metro is a major county landowner, with a portfolio that includes dozens of train stations, parking lots and bus yards, as well as parcels adjacent to rail lines that were acquired during construction.

The agency's real estate staff identified 40 possible properties, then eliminated sites slated for construction or development within 18 months. The agency also ruled out heavily used park-and-ride lots as well as sites that are "isolated" and removed from transit and social services, Metro Deputy Executive Officer John Potts said.

Commuters rarely fill the park-and-ride lots at the Orange Line busway stations in Van Nuys, Tarzana and Canoga Park, which would be prime candidates for homeless services, Metro said. The lots are adjacent to the Orange Line bike path, where Valley residents have frequently complained of homeless encampments.

A former bus yard in Venice Beach that closed in 2015 is also on the list. The 3.15-acre lot on Sunset Avenue is three blocks from the Pacific Ocean and a short walk from Abbot Kinney Boulevard, where homes sell for more than \$3 million.

Metro closed the bus facility after fielding multiple offers from buyers who wanted to develop the site, but no deal is expected within a year and a half. The building that formerly housed the bus yard's facilities would require some environmental remediation before people could work inside, Potts said.

The final site runs along San Fernando Road in northeast Los Angeles, sandwiched between the street and Metrolink tracks. A trucking company recently terminated its lease there for cab parking, freeing up 34,000 square feet that could be used for overnight parking for people living in cars and camper vans.

Metro's directors took no steps Thursday to move forward with the homeless services plan, and they raised a number of questions about how Metro would provide and fund the programs. They also questioned how long services that are described as "temporary" could be provided.

The hope, Potts said, is that Metro will hire an outside service provider and draft a contract with a "firewall" that protects the agency from any public safety, security and liability concerns.

All five sites are in the city of Los Angeles, and elected officials and their constituents should be notified, said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. She also raised questions about how a safe overnight parking program would work.

for land near Metro stations. The vast majority of the rail and bus system has no bathroom access, because officials have traditionally said the facilities could be magnets for drug use and prostitution.

The city of L.A. operates a hygiene trailer with showers and laundry machines in a city-owned parking lot on skid row. Security officers and a maintenance crew monitor the facility, and people who come in can speak with a homeless outreach worker.

Metro directors also supported a proposal to expand Metro's homeless outreach program, which began a year ago.

Currently, two teams of outreach workers walk through subway stations and ride trains on weekday mornings and afternoons, helping people find housing and other services. The expanded program would provide six more outreach teams, including workers who would ride the system on Saturdays, Sundays and overnight.

One team of outreach workers would be assigned exclusively to L.A.'s all-night buses, which carry so many sleeping homeless people that riders sometimes call them "rolling motels."

The expansion, which still needs a full Metro board vote, would increase the annual cost of the program from \$1.2 million to \$4.2 million.

USA Today

In the second Gilded Age, the mansions get bigger, and the homeless get closer

By: Rick Hampson

LOS ANGELES – When she became president of the Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association, Robin Greenberg wanted to do something for people who couldn't afford any home, much less one like hers in the golden hills of Bel Air.

So every month for eight years, she and colleagues went to Skid Row or elsewhere downtown to feed the homeless.

Then, last December, she learned the homeless had come to her.

Before dawn on Dec. 6 a wildfire raced out of a parched ravine in Bel Air, scorching 422 acres, destroying or damaging 18 homes and forcing the evacuation of about 700 others — including Robin Greenberg's.

Even more shocking than the fire's damage was its cause: a portable stove at a homeless encampment right there in Bel Air.

The wildfire is an instructive tale of America's second Gilded Age, a time when the kinds of excesses and extremes that once seemed to have been consigned to U.S. history have come roaring back.

In this Gilded Age, like the one at the end of the 19th Century, the gap between rich and poor is widening; monopolies have more power over business, business has more power over politics and politics are close-fought and hyper-partisan. The pace of change — technological, cultural, social — is dizzying.

In his presidential campaign, Donald Trump simultaneously evoked two Gilded Age types, the plutocrat and the populist. "Trump is the perfect figure for the new Gilded Age. He's like something out of Mark Twain" (who coined the term "Gilded Age" in 1873), says David Nasaw, a biographer of Gilded Age industrialist Andrew Carnegie. "Exaggeration is his essence."

The most striking feature shared by the two Gilded Ages is growing economic inequality. In the 19th Century, the juxtaposition of squalor and splendor shocked a rural nation that was moving to the city; today, it haunts a nation that can remember the relative equality of the Depression, World War II and the long post-war period.

Nowhere is this inequality more apparent than Los Angeles, where hundreds of encampments have sprung up on beaches, in riverbeds and in canyons as the homeless population has exploded and expanded beyond its old boundaries.

The homeless camp where the December wildfire started was only a mile from a new hilltop mansion twice the size of the White House that's for sale for \$500 million. It destroyed the \$5.5 million house of former NBA star Andrei Kirilenko, singed some vines at Rupert Murdoch's Moraga winery and forced celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Chelsea Handler to flee.

A sign of the apocalypse? Or just bad karma?

"I'm not a fire-and-brimstone, end-of-the-world kind of guy," says Bert Muto, a formerly homeless man who saw a fire at another homeless camp threaten multimillion-dollar houses. "But the Biblical stuff is a reminder of what it feels like today."

Build no small mansions

CHAPTER 1

The Gilded Age began about a decade after the end of the Civil War and ended around 1901, when President William McKinley was assassinated and reformer Teddy Roosevelt took office.

It was an era of robber barons such as Rockefeller, Carnegie and Vanderbilt; of state legislatures (which at the time elected U.S. senators) controlled by railroads and other special interests; of giant industrial monopolies known as “trusts;” of financial crises, including the panics of 1873, 1893 and 1907; and of a populist reaction against all of the above.

Tycoons built 70-room marble oceanfront “cottages” that they occupied for only four to eight weeks a year. A New York couple spent \$400,000 — more than \$9 million today — to throw a costume ball at the Waldorf Hotel. Sociologist Thorstein Veblen termed the phenomenon “conspicuous consumption.”

The city that epitomized the first Gilded Age was New York, site of the greatest houses, most glittering social events and the mightiest banks. It was home to the social elite — the so-called Four Hundred (the number that could fit into Mrs. Astor’s ballroom). Its slums, with names like Bandit’s Roost and Misery Row, were the subject of Jacob Riis’ book *How the Other Half Lives*.

But the capital of America’s second Gilded Age is Los Angeles, where hilltop homes worth tens of millions of dollars look out over a city in which even the middle class struggles to afford shelter and the number of homeless increases daily. The city’s famed sprawl cannot isolate Angelinos from disorienting contrasts many Americans assumed had disappeared after reforms of the Progressive Era, the New Deal and the Great Society.

The heart of Gilded Age Los Angeles is Bel Air, a community of curving lanes and hillside mansions where a Hollywood legend lurks behind every hedge and gate.

One may purchase “gigamansions” with names such as *The One*, (\$500 million); *Chartwell*, the setting for *The Beverly Hillbillies* TV show (\$295 million); *Billionaire*, with an ornamental helicopter on the roof (\$188 million, down from \$250 million); and *The Manor*, once home of producer Aaron Spelling (\$200 million).

(These prices are more aspirational than rational; the \$110 million for which Hard Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton’s Malibu home sold last month broke the L.A. record of \$100 million set two years ago by the Playboy Mansion and another house.)

In Bel Air, a house is really considered a mansion only if it’s 30,000 square feet — 12 times as large as the average American single family house.

As a result, many of Bel Air’s steep, narrow lanes are construction zones. “There’s a saying here,” says Jeff Hyland, head of the city’s leading high-end real estate agency. “If the house is 10 years old, it’s a candidate for a remodel. If it’s 20 years old, it’s a candidate for a tear down.”

Ready to party

CHAPTER 2

Once, the rich built their own dream houses. In the second Gilded Age, however, developers such as Nile Niami, a former B-movie producer, will do it for them.

Niami is the builder of *The One*, the USS *Enterprise* of the new class of spec houses. It sits on a 4-acre hilltop lot with 360-degree views, including the downtown skyline and the Pacific.

The One has 20 bedrooms, seven pools (including a moat) and five elevators. It has a nightclub, casino, flower room, spa, gym, beauty salon, 45-seat theater, four-lane bowling alley and a four-oven commercial kitchen. There is a lounge whose walls are glass tanks filled with iridescent jellyfish. There is parking for 30 vehicles.

The master bedroom suite — 5,500 square feet, more than twice the average house — has its own office, kitchen and pool.

If *The One* were to sell for even a third of its asking price after it’s finished next year, it still would set a U.S. record by about \$30 million.

"an emotional connection." Hence, amenities: swings suspended from the ceiling, or a jellyfish room.

And buyers who want such a place want it now, not in the three to four years it takes to build one. So many are sold in move-in condition — completely furnished, decorated and supplied, down to the champagne.

"All the decisions have been made for you. The lifestyle is there for you," McClean says. "All you have to do is move in." As Niami puts it, "The day they buy it, they're ready to have a party."

The market is global. The world has more than 1,500 billionaires, only a third of whom are Americans. Hyland, an expert on Bel Air's history as well as its real estate, says The Four Hundred of the first Gilded Age is now The Four Thousand.

None of Niami's potential buyers seeks a primary or full-time residence. Most already have five or six homes. So The One, like other giga-mansions, will be a pied-à-terre or a place to entertain and impress.

In a metro area with 58,000 homeless, The One will be empty much of the time.

Its isolated hillside perch and skyline views provide an escape from such vertiginous contradictions. McClean, the architect, talks about how his houses separate their occupants from the "day-to-day life of the city."

They also break down the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Trading on the benign climate, McClean skillfully uses glass walls and doors to create a sense of being outside when you're inside. The ironic result is housing for the rich that seems to disappear even as, for the poor, it actually is disappearing.

Lifestyles of the poor and famous

CHAPTER 3

The homelessness issue has achieved a special distinction in Los Angeles. Having increased 50% during the past five years, "it's supplanted traffic as the topic everyone talks about," says Tom Waldman, spokesman for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The homeless are as visible as the Hollywood sign. More than two years after Mayor **Eric Garcetti** declared a "state of emergency," about 41,000 are "unsheltered" — sleeping in cars, outside City Hall, under freeway overpasses. The Los Angeles Times calls it "a human tragedy of extraordinary proportions."

The homeless are blamed for everything from declining ridership on the Metro mass transit system — nearly three in 10 riders said they stopped riding because they felt unsafe — to last year's hepatitis A outbreak. Of 36 cases, 16 were among homeless people.

The city gets about 1,900 requests a month to clean up or remove homeless encampments, nearly three times more than two years ago.

Increasingly desperate officials have designated lots where people who live in their cars can legally park for the night and made 1,400 bins available to the homeless to store their belongings. There are plans to lodge people in trailers on city property.

The ranks of the homeless have been swelled by military veterans, young people emerging from foster homes, refugees from domestic abuse and inmates released under an initiative that made it easier to parole non-violent offenders. About three in 10 homeless people are mentally ill, and two in 10 are addicts.

Housing is too expensive. In California, eight in 10 homes for sale are not affordable on a public school teacher's salary.

Seeds of change

CHAPTER 4

Almost six months after the Bel Air wildfire, in the neighborhood that was evacuated, there's talk of helping the homeless, and of keeping them out.

Robin Greenberg says the homeless won't resettle in the canyons and instead will stay closer to services. She plans to keep going to Skid Row to help: "I like interacting with them. I like it when people say, 'Thank you.' I've brought my grandchildren."

But another longtime resident, Nickie Miner, says that in an arid landscape subject to high winds, homeless camps are a

do it in our hills." Residents have been going on a social networking site to report homeless sightings. A man was seen walking in the street near traffic, apparently "off his meds." One resident has raised the possibility of deploying a drone to spy on potential camp sites.

The extremes of the Gilded Age were moderated in the Progressive Era that followed. But the seeds of reform — the income tax, antitrust laws, limits on working hours and child labor — were planted in the Gilded Age.

Such seeds may be there today, if we look for them.

Consider the experience of Bel Air's similarly affluent neighbor to the west, Pacific Palisades.

In November 2015, a man in a homeless encampment, using a lit paper bag as a flashlight, started a fire that endangered several homes. Police ejected all the homeless, including Victor Jimenez, who'd lost his home after losing his job as a videographer at a law firm.

But a Pacific Palisades residents' committee privately raised \$125,000 to hire two social workers to connect the homeless — defined by the committee as Palisades "residents" if they'd been in town for six months — with housing and services.

One worker helped Jimenez, 49, get a job and an apartment downtown. He's grateful but under no illusions about what prompted it: "After the fire, the money was there."

Which may be what it takes.

Homelessness has been a sort of conflagration for greater Los Angeles, which also happens to be where the national taxpayer revolt began four decades ago, with Howard Jarvis and Proposition 13.

And yet in 2016 voters approved a \$1.2 billion city bond to build supported housing for the homeless. And last year they passed a county sales tax to fund homeless services.

On the scorched hillsides of Bel Air, the flowers known as "fire followers" are beginning to bloom.

The Hill

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right

By: Mary Plotkin

One issue which never seems to rise to any degree of national visibility is residential housing.

Yes, during local campaigns, you hear much talk about the "homeless crisis" and the need for "affordable housing." But these topics are almost never mentioned or brought up in a presidential campaign or even a U.S. Senate contest.

These supposed "local" matters, for some inexplicable reason, are deemed not "serious" enough for a national discussion.

This makes no sense. A roof over your head should be considered a national necessity. After having enough food to survive, what else could be so important?

On Sunday, The New York Times wrote a story on housing with the subtitle, "The nation's housing policy for the poor may feel like a lottery. Sometimes it is." The story, written by Emily Badger and Jim Wilson, chronicles the hopes of various individuals and families whose only desire is to have a decent and affordable place to live. It forcefully makes the point that the homeowners have a great deal while renters get the shaft. As the piece so starkly says, "the mortgage interest deduction is available to anyone who asks for it. ... For poor renters, there is never enough housing assistance to go around."

The federal government, when it comes to low-income renters, plays a very small role. Yes, there is public housing and vouchers, but that in no way approaches solving the problem or improving the situation.

Kate Hartley, director of San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, is quoted in the Times article. She sums it up with these clear words: "This country does have a national housing policy, and that is that we provide our greatest subsidies to relatively affluent, housed people."

It is pointed out in the article that "homeowners get the mortgage interest deduction, which has cost the government more than these programs for the poor combined."

So, housing policy by default becomes poor renters winning in a housing lottery.

manifestation of the tragic reality ... (that) we have never in America made affordable housing a right."

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right. (Just as health insurance for everyone should be.) I know, that smacks of socialism. Call it what you want. But I make no apologies for wanting to live in a country where having a roof over your head and health insurance is a right, and funding it is a priority.

Some things can rightly be labeled as necessities. Why is it too much to ask the U.S. Congress and this president to face up to the fact that far too many individuals and families are consumed with worry and anxiety about how they are to pay next month's rent.

Rent subsidies and vouchers must be vastly expanded and increased.

To fund this program, institute the Tobin tax, in which every stock transaction is taxed, and put those billions of dollars into a true housing program for the non-well-off, so they can have housing.

We as a nation have become inured to "the homeless." It is a tragic, terrible plight that those who are working have to constantly worry that they won't have a place to call home.

This crisis can be solved. But, first, there must be recognition that the crisis exists.

Why is no U.S. senator given the title the "Affordable Housing Senator?" Why, during U.S. Senate debates, is not one question asked about housing? Why, during the presidential primary season, is the subject never ever mentioned, let alone debated?

Len Simon, head of Simon & Co., a Washington, D.C., company that provides expert advice to city government, does offer a ray of hope. He perceptively points out that two former mayors — John Hickenlooper of Denver, now governor of Colorado, and Mitchell Landrieu of New Orleans — and present mayors **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles and Bill de Blasio of New York City, are on the 2020 list of possible Democratic presidential candidates. One or all of them will surely bring up and, more importantly, advocate for the issue.

One could, perhaps, add a prominent senator and former mayor, Cory Booker of Newark.

It's time that this essential necessity be brought up and discussed, and plans made to rectify it. The unmentionable subject is too important to be relegated to academic journals and local campaigns. It needs to be an integral part of the political life of this nation.

Far too many people are hurting because elected officeholders refuse to pay attention and come up with remedies. The issue of housing cannot be ignored.

This indifference is dangerous to so many.

City Watch

Koreatown Roars in Protest, Demands Public Hearings

By: Grace Yoo

K'TOWN ON ALERT-Koreatown came out ROARING in PROTEST against City Council President Herb Wesson and Mayor **Garcetti's** glib attitude in coming out to Koreatown and announcing that the Temporary Homeless Shelter will be located at [682 S. Vermont](#) -- the northern portion of CD 10 that is represented by Wesson.

As background, this came after Mayor Garcetti shared in his 2018 State of the City address that "every single member" on the 15-member City Council pledged to create a "minimum of 222 new units in neighborhoods across LA." The Mayor even acknowledged in his speech that Council President Herb Wesson would lead the way by stepping up to announce the site.

After the Mayor and Council President's press conference to share the good news about "A Bridge Home," another fantastic concept and name given for the Temporary Homeless Shelters that will be built around the City in each and every council district (per the Mayor), the K'town response most likely shocked and alarmed both men.

Literally, a GRASSROOTS movement occurred overnight -- well maybe over a few days -- with multiple social media sites and websites, [change.org](#), and mom's groups concerned about the idea of a temporary homeless shelter. There was either a lack of information or false information given to the Ktown community residents and stakeholders.

Some folks were told that this shelter would be affordable housing units; others were told it was going to be a tent-like structure; some thought a building was going to go up. The City did a horrible job of informing the Ktown community of what was going on. And this is just the beginning because as other council members across the City identify the

that the City is asking the community to wait to find out about what types of services will be provided for the homeless; it's only letting it be known that these would be welcoming spaces -- open 24 hours, with no restrictions, including no sobriety requirement to stay at the shelters.

"A Bridge Home" sounds like a good start. We live in LA and we know that there is a homelessness crisis. We see it, we hear it, we feel it and know by other senses, too. What is the City afraid of? Why not allow public hearings? I don't mean another repeat of the 2012 Redistricting Hearings, which put on a great show, with dozens of hearings held throughout the City, requesting input from residents. Yet, when it came down to voting, the input from the community was not considered. How do I know this? Because of the 21 Redistricting Commissioners, not a single one -- yes, not ONE COMMISSIONER -- was given all the data that had been collected over dozens of hearings. In fact, they purposely split the 21 Commissioners into three separate groups, so that it was impossible for each commissioner to see or hear input from the various communities throughout the City.

We live in America, not Russia, so how is it that community members are not informed? If you watch the video linked here, you hear Wesson telling the media on camera, "No, no, no, that is there is NOT going to be a public hearing where it relates to this, we are going to put a temporary facility here..." This is the treatment we get in Ktown. I have seen Wesson when he wants to impress and be polite. He's more than cordial. But we in Ktown often get treated like second class citizens. As you can see from the grassroots uproar, this disparate treatment will not be tolerated.

Let's not forget what happens when we rush into things that were supposedly great ideas supported by Wesson and Garcetti...like the half-aked concept of RecycLA which has caused complaints in the tens of thousands, costing some folks an increase of 400% for trash hauling fees. Even Wesson admits that RecycLA was not well-implemented.

In a recent issue of LA Magazine, Wesson's response says it all: "On this one, we did not project accurately what was going to occur. We could have done a deeper dive; we might have looked at doing a pilot project first. We spent a couple of years reviewing it. Sometimes we get things wrong. I'm not ashamed to say that I was wrong on this one."

Need I say more? "A Bridge Home" should be given a DEEP DIVE. Homeless individuals and families need well-thought out solutions, not just photo-ops from folks wanting higher office.

We have a huge homeless crisis that keeps growing. The reason is the City has not prioritized the building of affordable units. It keeps building luxury units, with studios starting at \$2,500. If \$15 an hour-employees work full time, their annual salaries would be approximately \$31,000. And after taxes, it's far less. If you can find a one-bedroom apartment for \$1,800 you would be lucky. But that would still cost \$21,600 a year. LA needs affordable housing, so let's be smart and build affordable units that rent for less than \$1,000 a studio. This would alleviate the growing homeless situation in LA.

Councilmember Wesson had his folks handing out his ideal version of what the Homeless Shelter will look like in Ktown, saying it was "a fact" that there were 400 or so homeless people in Koreatown. Well, until I see the raw data for his conclusions, forgive me if I am skeptical. I have endured more than a decade of Wesson not acting honorably towards the Koreatown community, so excuse me if I don't believe his words.

Actions speak much louder than words. Wesson's "action" has been not listening to residents and stakeholders in this area. Instead, he has tried to drown out voices and opinions he does not like. He has called for the entire City to come to a "rally" he called for this Friday at 8:45 a.m. -- a rally to support temporary homeless shelters. This coincides with Ktown's announced gathering to speak at city council. We are rescheduling our gathering in an abundance of caution, to prevent potential misunderstandings that might arise out of language issues.

If you wish to join the movement to stand up against another fiasco-in-the-making, please go to www.koreatownvoice.com to be notified of future gatherings.

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Fwd: SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 9:36 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice](#)

[LA TIMES: Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike](#)

[NY TIMES: The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors](#)

[CNBC: 2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis](#)

[SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS: Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races](#)

LA Times

How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice

By: Dave Zahniser, Cindy Chang, and Richard Winton

Last Monday morning, Los Angeles civic leaders were in suspense.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had said he would probably announce his pick for police chief that day.

Text messages and phone calls flew between people who were usually in the know. "Have you heard?" "Still no word?"

There was a reason no one had heard. The mayor had not yet made up his mind.

He had been mulling the possibilities for almost a month. This was perhaps the most important hiring decision he would make, at a time when he was considering a bid for president of the United States.

The three finalists for the job — LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos, Bill Scott, chief of the San Francisco Police Department, and LAPD Assistant Chief Michel Moore — were more similar than different. All were LAPD veterans who embraced the kinder, gentler ethos of the post-Rodney King era. Each was a believer in the reforms begun by previous chiefs, promising to deepen ties with minority residents and find ways to reduce the number of shootings by police officers.

Each brought his own distinctive skills, personality and political upsides.

The mayor had consulted dozens of people in the run-up to his decision: law enforcement experts, union presidents, civil rights advocates, nonprofit executives, police officers, and, perhaps most crucial, the man who is vacating the post: Police Chief Charlie Beck.

Garcetti had conducted four rounds of in-person interviews, one with City Council members taking the lead. At one point, he even assigned the three finalists written homework, asking them to outline their ideas on technology, training and other topics.

The clock ticked past noon. Time was running out to convene an afternoon news conference.

At 1:17 p.m., Garcetti picked up his phone. The number he dialed was Moore's.

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On May 2, the city's civilian police commissioners interviewed five LAPD veterans, drawn from 31 applicants for the job. They quickly settled on their top three.

Arcos was genial and empathetic, a product of Atwater Village when it was still gang-ridden and working-class. If chosen, he would make history as the city's first Latino police chief at a time when President Trump's hard-line deportation policies have made some immigrants fearful of law enforcement.

Scott grew up as an African American in Alabama during the civil rights era. After 27 years with the LAPD, he was well-known in South Los Angeles as a leader who viscerally felt the costs of arresting and incarcerating young black men.

And then there was Moore, known as a crime statistics wonk so well-versed in the ins and outs of managing the LAPD's 10,000 sworn officers that his learning curve as chief would essentially be zero.

Moore's father was Basque, and he is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, but his heritage has not played a large role in defining his identity at the LAPD.

Four of the five commissioners ranked Moore first, but that was no guarantee of success. Moore had also been the commission's top choice in 2009, when the job ended up going to Beck.

Beck was not retiring until June 27, but the appointment would need to be confirmed by the City Council, and Garcetti had indicated earlier that he hoped to be finished by the end of May.

The mayor set to work, seeking advice from dozens of people, including council members, immigrant rights advocates, former LAPD Chief Bill Bratton and San Francisco officials such as Dist. Atty. George Gascon.

Moore, who serves as Beck's No. 2, made it clear during the first round of interviews that he wasn't simply seeking to continue the policies of the current administration, Garcetti told The Times later. Instead, he offered his own ideas for running the LAPD.

Moore talked about ways that footage from the body cameras worn by police officers could be better used in the department's training, the mayor recalled. He also discussed how the LAPD could help homeless people get low-level citations expunged on their way to obtaining jobs and permanent housing.

"This was the first time where I could see him as a chief," the mayor said. "He had some pretty bold and brave ideas. It wasn't who people expected Michel Moore to be. Some have said he has a reputation for being real robotic, too tightly wound. But he was very much at ease."

Garcetti also turned to Connie Rice, a civil rights attorney who was once a fierce critic of the LAPD. Rice, a confidante to several mayors, had advocated for Beck the last time around. This time, she said, she did not publicly back a candidate, instead couching the conversation in terms of "if you want 'X,' you can select this candidate. If you want 'Y,' you can pick this person."

Plenty of others stepped forward to let Garcetti know they had a favorite.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights, left Garcetti a voicemail early on informing him that she favored Arcos.

Salas, a longtime Garcetti supporter, wanted a police chief from a neighborhood that had "consistently felt the brunt of aggressive policing." And she believed that a Latino police chief would be a countervailing force against a president "who is diminishing and demeaning" people of Mexican descent.

Garcetti also consulted Danny Bakewell, publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, an African American newspaper. Bakewell favored Scott, according to the mayor. So did a group of largely African American pastors who argued that the San Francisco chief has a deep understanding of South Los Angeles, which has had a fraught history with the LAPD.

Still, one of the city's most powerful voices on police reform came out in favor of Moore. Former Los Angeles Urban League President John Mack, who served on the police commission from 2005 to 2013, called Garcetti in late May, after the mayor had finished three rounds of interviews, and spent half an hour making his case.

Mack cited Moore's work on community policing and his track record on combating police brutality and racism in the LAPD. Moore "would build upon the reform, the progress, that's already been made," Mack said he told Garcetti.

As his self-imposed Monday deadline approached, Garcetti also called two police commissioners, Matt Johnson and Steve Soboroff — both Moore supporters.

Johnson said that in several conversations, the mayor delved into each candidate's ability to communicate with residents across the city as well as with the LAPD's rank-and-file officers. He was looking for a chief who would not impose an agenda but would listen and then win people over, Johnson said.

"He was thinking this through from every possible angle," Johnson said of Garcetti.

Soboroff spoke with Garcetti at about 2 p.m. Sunday. The two men discussed criteria such as who you would want at the helm if an earthquake occurred the day after the swearing-in. But Garcetti remained undecided.

and Arcos remained in the mix.

"The candidates were so strong that he was really struggling," Soboroff said.

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In recent months, Garcetti, a Democrat, has traveled to early presidential primary states, including Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

As a Spanish-speaker of Mexican, Italian and Jewish heritage, Garcetti understands Los Angeles' divisive racial history. His father, Gil, was the district attorney who lost the O.J. Simpson prosecution in 1995.

On the national political stage, a police appointment makes a difference only if the chief does very well or very badly, said Jack Pitney, a professor of politics at Claremont McKenna College.

The publicity Garcetti would have gained by appointing Los Angeles' first Latino police chief would not have a lasting effect, particularly since the mayor already appeals to Latino voters with his fluent Spanish, Pitney said.

Moore ticked a box in another key area. As head of patrol operations, he is a major architect of the LAPD's crime-fighting strategies.

"If the chief were particularly ineffective in fighting crime, and people saw Los Angeles as being disorderly, that would be a liability," Pitney said. "Conversely, if the new chief is extremely effective, that's an asset."

The three finalists were not likely to differ substantively on immigration, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

But naming Arcos as chief would have been valuable symbolically, amplifying the LAPD's immigrant-friendly message, Guerra said.

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On Monday morning — the day of the expected announcement — Garcetti met with Beck at City Hall, hashing out the strengths of the three candidates in an hour-long conversation.

Beck, who promoted all three finalists to top positions in the LAPD, told The Times that he did not initially reveal his favorite to Garcetti. But partway into the mayor's search, Beck recommended Moore as a reformer who has played a key role in the department's major initiatives, from equipping officers with body cameras to training them how to reduce the use of deadly force.

Beck also thought Garcetti and Moore would get along.

"He has an unparalleled work ethic, an unparalleled breadth of experience with the LAPD. He's super smart and very responsive to those he works with," Beck said of Moore. "The mayor and he are definitely alike in that way."

Garcetti, for his part, said he did not feel that Beck was pushing him in a particular direction. Instead, the chief argued that chemistry and trust would be crucial in the decision.

"He said, 'This is all about who you click with,'" the mayor said.

Garcetti then reached out to Rice again. And he called Craig Lally, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents LAPD officers. The league did not publicly endorse a candidate, but it was known within City Hall that the group's board favored someone other than Moore.

Lally said he told the mayor that the next chief would have to confront the issue of patrol officers doing more with less, rushing to and from calls that often involve homeless or mentally ill people.

Until the end, Garcetti said, he was not leaning toward Moore but "went back and forth with these three guys pretty consistently."

About 15 minutes after making up his mind, Garcetti called Moore. He followed with a call to Beck. The news media were told to be at City Hall at 3:30 p.m.

As the cameras rolled, Garcetti stepped out, flanked by his new police chief.

LA Times

Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike

By: Dave Zahniser

When Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled his yearly budget in April, he promised major progress in an area long neglected by City Hall: reconstruction of the city's worst roads.

Garcetti called for the city to more than double the amount of money it spends on repairs to D- and F-ranked streets, where pavement is so damaged that it frequently needs to be rebuilt — typically at a cost of \$1 million or more per lane mile.

Yet a major portion of that work cannot happen unless the City Council increases the fee charged to utilities that rip up and repair the city's streets. And in recent weeks, business leaders have been pushing back on the idea.

Garcetti's spending plan calls for the city to collect \$70.7 million in Street Damage Restoration Fees in 2018-19, up from the \$8.3 million budgeted for the current year. About \$30 million of that new revenue would be spent to repair L.A.'s worst roads, with additional money going to maintain streets that are still in decent condition.

The plan has drawn written objections from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, AT&T and others, who say it needs more public vetting.

The Central City Assn., a group that focuses heavily on real estate development, warned city lawmakers that the fee increase would have a disproportionate effect on housing construction downtown, where streets are being torn up to provide utility hookups for new residential buildings.

"We do not want to see the Street Damage Restoration Fee become a means by which downtown ... becomes the primary funding source for road reconstruction throughout Los Angeles," Jessica Lall, the group's president and chief executive, wrote in a letter in May.

About 25% of L.A.'s streets, or about 7,000 lane miles, are considered to be in poor condition, according to the city's most recent evaluation.

The Street Damage Restoration Fee was created in 1998 to help the city offset the cost incurred when utilities cut into public streets. Public works officials say those cuts, even when they are refilled, cause pavement to degrade at a faster rate, forcing the city to make additional repairs.

Although businesses have been the most vocal, the biggest effect could ultimately be felt by the Department of Water and Power, which frequently performs work on underground water pipes and electrical lines.

If the increase is approved, the city-owned utility is expected to spend nearly \$38 million annually on street damage fees, according to an analysis prepared for city lawmakers.

The DWP, whose board is composed of mayoral appointees, has voiced no public objections to the proposal. But Jack Humphreville, a frequent critic of city spending, called the increase a "revenue grab" by the city's elected officials — one that will result in higher bills for DWP customers.

"They're ramrodding this thing through, and the ratepayers are going to get hosed," said Humphreville, who belongs to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, a group that appears before lawmakers each year to present its views on the city budget.

Humphreville questioned whether the fee increase is aimed at making up for funds lost when Garcetti and the City Council agreed to scale back the amount of money the DWP pays the city each year to balance the budget. The reduction was part of a legal settlement backed by lawmakers last year.

Garcetti and other city officials say there's no connection between the rise in the street damage fee and last year's reduction in the DWP payment. They say officials have spent years studying the need for the city to recoup all of the costs incurred when utilities dig trenches on public rights-of-way.

"When utilities and telecom companies cut into our streets, they should be the ones paying to fix the damage," Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar said in an email to The Times. "Right now, the city has to cover more than 90% of what it costs to fully restore the street after the work on an underground pipe, cable or gas line is done."

Comisar said Garcetti's proposal was spurred by a 2014 audit from City Controller Ron Galperin, which concluded that the city had missed out on up to \$190 million in damage fees from utilities that performed street work since 1998.

from utility repairs.

"It's been 12 years since this [fee] has been reset, so we have to catch up," said Kevin James, a Garcetti appointee who presides over the Board of Public Works, which recommended that the fee be increased and reworked. "I agree with the controller — we should have done it years ago, but we didn't."

Still, the City Council is hedging its bets on whether the city will receive all of the fee revenue planned by the mayor for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

When they approved Garcetti's budget May 21, city lawmakers ensured that more than \$19 million in repairs planned for D- and F-rated streets cannot move ahead without another council vote — a move designed to ensure the money is available to pay for the work.

Some council members have declined to commit themselves to the fee hike envisioned by the mayor, saying that they want to study it more closely.

The fee for ripping up residential streets ranges from \$5.18 to \$7.78 per square foot, depending on how recently a street has been repaired. Under the proposal heading to the council, it would be increased to \$8.24 per square foot, Comisar said.

On major streets, such as Sunset, Wilshire and Venice boulevards, the fee would be raised to \$19.44 per square foot. That fee currently ranges from \$14.18 to \$21.26, depending on when the most recent repairs occurred.

Business groups have also questioned Garcetti's push to change the way the street damage fees would be charged. Under the proposal, utilities would pay a fee not just for an area where a trench is dug, but for any part of the street that sits within 5 feet of that trench.

City officials say that when a trench is cut and refilled, nearby soil underneath the street shifts, reducing support for the pavement. That causes it to become weakened over time, requiring more frequent repairs, they say.

Garcetti's appointees on the Board of Public Works have also suggested that council members look at charging the damage fee to Southern California Gas Co. Such a step would require the negotiation of a new franchise agreement, mayoral aides say.

The gas company has argued that imposition of the fee would lead to higher construction costs that would ultimately be absorbed by its ratepayers.

"Simply put, these additional fees are passed along to our customers and have the potential to significantly impact new businesses or homes requesting utility service," Geoffrey Danker, manager of franchise, fees and planning for the utility, wrote in a letter to city lawmakers.

NY Times

The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors

By: Shane Goldmacher

Senator Elizabeth Warren has come calling as recently as April. Kamala Harris, the first-term senator of California, has made repeated visits, starting as early as her third month in office. Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is also no stranger to the big-money donor world of New York; he was here in April — his third such visit in three months.

It will be months before Mr. Biden, Ms. Harris, Ms. Warren or most potential presidential aspirants will barnstorm across the farmlands of Iowa, dig into a low-country boil in South Carolina or field questions at a town-hall meeting in New Hampshire.

But with American presidential races requiring an ever-dizzying amount of money, an early, behind-the-scenes 2020 contest is already taking place: the New York money primary.

Over passed appetizers, intimate dinners and private board room meet-and-greets, a parade of nationally ambitious Democrats have been cycling through the offices and living rooms of the Manhattan money set.

Top New York donors and Democratic fund-raisers, in more than two dozen interviews, said that their phones rarely stop buzzing as candidates blitz one of the densest concentrations of Democratic wealth in the country.

Others calling and visiting include Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor; Mayor **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles; former Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts; Gov. Steve Bullock of Montana; and the former Missouri Senate candidate, Jason Kander. Then there are the ambitious locals who already keep their donor lists close at hand: Gov. Andrew M.

"When a candidate calls me to talk about 'strategy and issues,' you grab hold of your wallet for dear life," said Robert Zimmerman, a prominent New York donor and a member of the Democratic National Committee who has been in touch with multiple prospective candidates.

For now, it is more about making connections than collecting cash, as few donors are committing at this stage. But to run a serious primary campaign, Democrats know they will have to amass tens of millions of dollars in the coming two years. Even if they got started as early as this July (and none of the top tier is expected to get into the race until after the midterms), a candidate would have to raise nearly \$55,000 per day to construct a \$30 million war chest by the end of 2019.

New York will be crucial to that task. More than \$500 million came from the New York City area to political campaigns in the last full election — the most of any single metropolitan region in the country, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. New York State had 15 of the top 50 ZIP codes for giving in the 2016 elections; no other state, even California, had half that many.

While similar donor dynamics are playing out in other affluent liberal enclaves, such as Silicon Valley and Hollywood, the donor chase is especially early and intense here because, for the first time since at least 2004, there is no prohibitive front-runner to corner the market on all that New York campaign cash, a role that Hillary Clinton had played in the last two open Democratic nominating contests.

In March, Mr. Biden was the special guest at a \$10,000 per-person dinner benefiting House Democrats, at the home of the billionaire hedge fund manager James S. Chanos. In April, he attended a private fund-raising lunch at the home of a major Democratic donor, Dennis Mehiel, for his political action committee.

The night after Mr. Biden's April visit, Ms. Warren mingled with donors at the Manhattan home of Mark Green, a former New York City public advocate, the official reason being her 2018 re-election bid (for which she has already stockpiled \$15 million). A few months earlier, Meyer S. Frucher, the vice chairman of Nasdaq, hosted another fund-raising reception for Ms. Warren, according to people familiar with the gatherings.

Many donors said they gravitated toward politicians focused on the 2018 elections. Laetitia Garriott de Cayeux, who opened her Murray Hill home to Mr. Biden for the February event, said she did so "because I see Joe Biden going to every corner of the country to get Democrats elected in 2018."

Sarah Kovner, an influential Democratic fund-raiser in the city, said she ignores those too focused on the presidential campaign. "Fine — but not now, not from me. Not with Jon Tester in trouble and Claire McCaskill and Kyrsten Sinema in need," she said, rattling off the names of Democrats in key Senate races. "That's what I'm concentrating on."

Almost every politician visiting New York can claim a purpose other than their own unspoken ambition — Mr. Biden for his PAC, Ms. Warren for her re-election.

Mr. McAuliffe, a prolific and voracious fund-raiser who was once the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been raising money for a new group focused on redistricting. But when Mr. McAuliffe recently met with donors at an event that the longtime Clinton adviser, Douglas J. Band, helped put together, his spiel included a half-hour on his successes as governor, according to two attendees, despite saying he was focused entirely on the midterms.

Ms. Harris, who was sworn into her Senate seat in January 2017, trekked to New York two months into her term to put on a free "thank you" event for her big New York contributors at the Regency Hotel in March 2017. That summer, Michael Kempner, a public-relations executive and top Democratic bundler, hosted an event for her at his spread in the Hamptons. She and Senator Booker attended another dinner with politically engaged black executives in Bridgehampton, N.Y. More recently, the fashion retailer Lauren Santo Domingo, who is married to a billionaire beer heir, organized an event for Ms. Harris's PAC in February.

Mr. Patrick, now at Bain Capital, the private equity firm made famous for launching Mitt Romney's business career, does not have a political entity he is raising money for, but he has still kept in touch with New York donors, including attending a donor dinner last spring and an event to mingle with contributors more recently at the Manhattan offices of Morgan Stanley, according to people familiar with the events.

The lone Democratic outlier from the money chase is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who bypassed large contributors in his 2016 presidential bid and still raised about \$230 million, almost entirely from a torrent of small online donations — a model that many Democrats are trying to emulate.

But in an era when a single billionaire can, more or less, sustain a presidential candidate through a super PAC, the courtship of the donor class has anything but slowed.

There is a distinctive hierarchy to this donor dance: the bigger the contributor, the smaller the gathering. Billionaires and the biggest bundlers get almost limitless one-on-one time. The next tranche of mega-millionaires and political financiers get intimate dinners or office gatherings. Larger receptions are for standard-fare contributors.

Ronald Perelman, the billionaire donor, organized a fund-raiser for Ms. Harris's PAC at the offices of his company, MacAndrews & Forbes, last December. Earlier in the year, Mr. Perelman, who contributes to both Republicans and Democrats, had another ambitious Californian, Mr. Garcetti, for a cocktail hour among donors at his estate in the Hamptons.

Mr. Garcetti, who is known to hand out his personal cellphone number to contributors and encourage them to stay in touch, was last in New York in March, a trip that included some private catch-up time with top contributors as he raises money for his federal PAC to help Democrats in the midterms.

Another politician whom donors mentioned as solicitous of New York is Steve Bullock, the governor of Montana. He pitches himself as the rare Democrat who can get elected and get along in a deep red state. He, too, has a federal PAC and has been hiring strategists with national experience.

Other younger politicians, who are far from national figures, are still seeking exposure to the moneyed class of Manhattan, including Pete Buttigieg, the 36-year-old mayor of South Bend, Ind., (four visits already in 2018) and Mr. Kander, the 37-year-old former Missouri secretary of state who lost a Senate race in 2016 (two recent visits included donor events).

As Stu Loeser, a veteran Democratic strategist in New York, put it, "The road to the White House runs down 57th Street."

It is more than a figure of speech. In the 2016 cycle, two of the top five ZIP codes for political giving in America — 10022 and 10019, which span the length of 57th Street across Midtown Manhattan just south of Central Park — combined for \$120 million in donations, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

New York contributors say there has not been this much activity since at least 2003, the last open Democratic contest without Mrs. Clinton.

While Mrs. Clinton was seen as holding a near-stranglehold on prominent New York donors, none of the current New York-area politicians considered possible 2020 candidates — Ms. Gillibrand, Mr. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio or Mr. Booker — engender a similar sense of near-absolute loyalty.

"You can analogize this to a dating process in which there are still a lot of blind dates and first dates but not yet a lot of second dates or third dates," said Steven Rattner, a Wall Street executive and veteran Democratic fund-raiser. "Let alone anyone going steady or getting married."

CNBC

2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis

By: Julia Boorstin

One of the biggest challenges for the company founders and CEOs, right up there with scaling the company into a sustainable business, is finding qualified employees. Yet those on CNBC's Disruptor 50 list — the 50 companies CNBC believes have the potential to upend multibillion-dollar industries to become the next generation of great public companies — revealed they are actually seeing progress when it comes to hiring.

This is according to CNBC's annual survey of CNBC's Disruptor 50 companies, conducted from April 16 to May 16, 2018. More than 60 percent of respondents said it's easier right now to find qualified employees to fill open positions than it was a year ago; 11 percent went so far to say it's "a lot easier."

That's a little surprising, as small-business owners continue to report that finding qualified workers is a huge challenge. A May study of small businesses by the National Federation of Independent Business, a trade group representing 325,000 small and independent business owners across America, one third of small businesses have a job opening they can't fill, and nearly a quarter of all small-business owners claim that finding qualified workers is their single most important business problem. The April 2018 NFIB report revealed that while 57 percent of small businesses are hiring or planning to hire, 88 percent of them report difficulties finding qualified candidates.

So why are Disruptors having an easier time? One reason could be the fact that these fast growing, higher-profile companies are just more appealing to applicants than the average small business. In fact, three of this year's Disruptor 50 companies, and five now-public former Disruptors, appeared on LinkedIn's 2018 List of 50 Top Companies where professionals want to work.

It could point to an even more specific reason. A March 2017 study from PwC found a majority of women (and an almost

for an employer. So it might not be a coincidence that many of the Disruptor 50 companies that say it's easier or even "a lot easier" to find qualified employees — like Rent the Runway and Thinx — have female CEOs.

A recent Global Information Security Workforce study supports their findings, at least in the information technology sector: Its study claims that as many as 1.8 million IT jobs could be unfilled by 2022. That is 20 percent more than what the same study predicted two years earlier.

Rodney Williams, the CEO and co-founder of three-time disruptor Lisnr, this year at No. 22, has reaped the benefits of being a desired place to work, especially in Cincinnati, where Lisnr was founded.

"In Cincinnati we were able to attract the superstars," said Williams, speaking at CNBC's Disruptor 50 Roadshow event in Los Angeles last month. Still, he said, the company struggled to fill management positions. "We had a challenge finding talent that had done this before, who knew the nuances of ... taking a business to the next step." Lisnr has since set up shop in Oakland, California, where it's been able to tap the Silicon Valley talent pool.

Back in Los Angeles, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said the city's assortment of universities helps ensure that local tech entrepreneurs can find plenty of talent, but there's a dramatic hiring gap in other industries. "What keeps me up is not whether tech companies will have those workers, but closing the gap in other places." By this he means finding qualified workers in fields other than in tech.

"We have trade jobs. We have things at the port where 40 percent of the goods come into America. We want to make sure those high-paying jobs stay there for the future. Electrifying our trucks and our logistics fleet to reduce pollution. Those are the gaps I think that I want to fill in terms of skills, to be able to put people into community college and find those levels."

He added: "If we are going to build 40 years' worth of rapid transit lines, we can get those workers from other states. But we should be growing them here so they don't need a college degree to have a middle-class job as a laborer, electrician, a construction worker."

Nationwide, however, the information technology sector has the highest rate of job openings among all sectors of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department's most recent survey of Job Openings and Labor Turnover (also known as the JOLT Survey) reveals there were 178,000 open tech jobs in April, up more than 50 percent from April 2017.

So while some Disruptor 50 companies may have their pick of the best candidates, tech firms in general have increasingly more open positions, with increasingly fewer people available to fill them.

San Jose Mercury News

Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races

By: Paul Rogers

Most voters already know that Gavin Newsom and Dianne Feinstein — who easily advanced to the November general election in their races for governor and U.S. senator — were among the big winners in Tuesday's California primary election.

But there's another group also popping the champagne this week: environmentalists.

Across California and the Bay Area, environmental groups had one of their best elections ever. They won nearly every major race they contested, securing billions of dollars for parks, beaches, water projects and public transportation, and at the same time helped kill plans to develop Silicon Valley hillsides and a proposal to change the way the state spends money from its greenhouse gas auctions.

"People want open space and parks, they want clean air and clean water," said Deb Callahan, executive director of the Bay Area Open Space Council, a coalition of more than 50 parks agencies and land trusts. "And clearly people are willing to pay for it. There's an understanding that you need to invest in priorities."

The biggest victory statewide for conservation groups was the passage of Proposition 68, a \$4.1 billion parks and water bond that voters easily approved 56-44 percent.

The measure only passed in 27 of California's 58 counties, but it won by huge margins of 65 percent or more in most Bay Area counties and 61 percent in Los Angeles County, which easily offset "no" votes from the Central Valley and counties such as Riverside and San Bernardino, where it narrowly failed.

Proposition 68 is the first statewide funding measure for parks approved by California voters in 12 years, with about \$2.8 billion headed to parks and wildlife, and \$1.3 billion going to water and flood control projects, much of it to be handed out by the Legislature and state agencies through competitive grants.

Environmental groups donated \$6.4 million on the Yes on 68 campaign, with major funding coming from the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Save the Redwoods League and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Green groups faced opposition from taxpayer groups but no organized campaign against them. They spent heavily on social media, blanketed farmers markets, ran volunteer-driven phone banks and cultivated events with high-profile supporters such as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

They also secured endorsements from business groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Orange County Business Council.

The measure will mean millions for urban parks, soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, bike paths and public swimming pools — with a special emphasis on low-income urban areas. Also slated for funding are trails, beaches, forests, visitor centers and campgrounds at state and regional parks, and new funding for groundwater cleanup, flood control and drinking water treatment plants.

Although business groups regularly battle with environmentalists in other states, many in the Bay Area and Southern California are increasingly finding common ground, said Larry Gerston, a professor emeritus of political science at San Jose State University. That's because they see parks, recreation, clean air and clean water as a "quality of life" selling point to lure and keep talented workers, particularly in the face of high housing costs and traffic.

"There's a package," Gerston said. "It's salary, it's benefits, but it's also the weather and a better environment, and the ocean and parks."

Among the other big wins by environmental groups Tuesday:

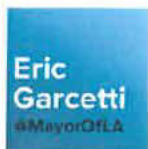
- Proposition 72, a tax break for people who install rain barrels or other systems on their rooftops to conserve water, passed 84-16 percent.
- Proposition 70 went down in a landslide defeat, 64-36 percent. It would have allowed Republicans in Sacramento more of a say in how the state spends the money it generates from the "cap and trade" permits it auctions to oil refineries, factories and other large emitters of greenhouse gases. Environmentalists worried it would mean less money for public transit, solar rebates and other conservation measures.
- Measure B and C in San Jose. An attempt by developers to allow the construction of 910 senior housing units on vacant land in the city's Evergreen area, failed 58-42 percent. The measure was opposed by environmental groups who said it would transform 200 acres of hillsides into a wealthy gated community without environmental review. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who also opposed Measure B, led efforts to qualify Measure C, which makes it more difficult to develop open areas in Evergreen, Almaden Valley and Coyote Valley. It passed 60-40 percent.
- Regional Measure 3. A \$3 toll increase over the next six years at seven bridges that cross San Francisco Bay, but not the Golden Gate Bridge, to raise \$4.5 billion for transportation projects, won 54-46 percent. The measure was backed by business groups but also had the support of Save the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenbelt Alliance and the League of Conservation Voters. Although it funds freeway improvements, it also will expand BART, Caltrain, ferry service, buses and bike lanes. "We've got to reduce our reliance on cars to cut greenhouse emissions and roadway runoff pollution to the bay," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.
- Measure C in Napa County, which would limit the number of oak trees that vineyard owners can cut down on hillsides, narrowly led Friday night 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent, despite farmers and the wine industry heavily outspending conservation groups.
- In Davis, Measure H, which renewed a \$49 annual parcel tax for parks, bike paths, swimming pools and street trees for another 20 years, was approved 73-28 percent.
- In Santa Cruz, 76 percent of voters approved Measure U, an advisory measure that opposes recently announced plans by UC-Santa Cruz to expand campus enrollment by 10,000 students to 28,000 by 2040.
- In Martinez, Measure I, which requires voter approval to develop areas zoned for open space or parks, led late Friday, but by tiny margin more than Measure F, which requires voter approval for such changes but only on publicly owned land. Measure I had 51.37 percent and Measure F had 50.87 percent of the vote, yet thousands of mail-in ballots in Contra Costa County remain to be counted, so the results could change. The measure with the most votes will prevail if both pass.

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Fwd: SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Sun, Jul 29, 2018 at 7:20 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?](#)

[POLITICO: California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race](#)

[ADVOCATE: No Charges Against Political Donor Accused of Drugging Man to Death](#)

[DAILY BREEZE: Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women](#)

[CBS LOS ANGELES: Political Expert Weighs In On U.S. Debt, Cohen Tapes, Mayor Garcetti \(LINK ONLY\)](#)

LA Times

Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?

By: Steve Lopez

Is he or isn't he?

That's the question for L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

Is he running for president of the United States, as has been speculated for months, or not?

If so, and it comes down to Trump or Garcetti, I'm with Garcetti.

Then again, if it comes down to Trump or a fig tree, I like figs.

But don't you have to have your own house in order before you consider trading up? Given the current state of Los Angeles, which has become the nation's largest tent city, it's not as if Garcetti could put himself out there on a "mission accomplished" victory tour.

It's hard to say, though, whether Garcetti is going to run, because he doesn't seem to be entirely clear on the matter. He claims he isn't focused on life after City Hall, despite trips to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, three early-voting states you do not fly to just to sample the ice cream.

"I'm not interested in my next job," Garcetti told me Friday by phone, speaking from Hanoi in Vietnam. He's on a 10-day Asian tour, drumming up business and tourism for Los Angeles.

But then he said something that made it sound as though he's going through a bit of a Walter Mitty phase. James Thurber's character imagined himself as a fighter pilot or surgeon, and I'm willing to bet Garcetti has imagined what it would be like to wake up in the White House.

"I'm concerned about this country, period. I think all of us should be. This is the worst moment I've lived in in my lifetime," he said, killing any chance he might have had to get invited to Mar a Lago.

Garcetti listed, among his many concerns, climate change, civil rights and America's stature abroad.

"There are a couple of things missing in this country: kindness, moral leadership, and people who deliver, who don't invent problems they can't solve, but look at real problems and address them. Potholes, infrastructure, making college free, [raising] the minimum wage," Garcetti said.

Also missing, by the way, are the records on what it costs taxpayers for Garcetti's security detail to travel with him. The LAPD has refused to say, Garcetti has deferred to the police, and the L.A. Times has filed a lawsuit, which I'll get to in a minute.

First, let's talk politics.

No one has ever gone directly from any City Hall to the White House, and you would have better odds playing the lottery

But who knows?

If a barking braggart can insult women for their looks, make fun of a disabled guy, set race relations back 50 years, lie pathologically, boast about grabbing women by their crotches, tell working stiffs he's too smart to pay taxes, insist the first black president was from Africa and still become president, a reasonably intelligent Chihuahua could get elected, and no one can be ruled out.

"Garcetti has as much of a chance as Trump did two years before the 2016 election, and as much as Obama had two years before 2008," said Fernando Guerra, director of Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Even then, how would Garcetti beat Trump, whose happy hordes think he's the lord and redeemer?

A third-party candidate like Ohio Gov. John Kasich draws Republican votes from Trump and the Democrat slips through the back door of the White House, Guerra theorized.

The problem is that Garcetti is so far down the list of potential Democratic nominees, he's almost invisible. Even among Californians, you'd have to rank him behind U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, if not U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff.

And then you've got Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden at the top of the list, each of them miles ahead of Garcetti in terms of name recognition and access to money.

A lot of political insiders guess Garcetti is more interested in branding himself as a contender so he gets consideration for a Cabinet post if a Democrat beats Trump, or because it might help in a run to replace California Sen. Dianne Feinstein when she retires.

But let's say against all odds, Garcetti emerges as a true contender. He's young, he's Mexican-Italian-Jewish, he speaks Spanish, he talks a good game on tech and transit and the future of cities, he's green, he's a sharp public speaker.

What happens then?

A TV ad runs. One minute, maybe, although 30 seconds could do the trick. You see homeless encampments everywhere, hellish traffic and caravans of people leaving town for affordable housing in Nevada. The narrator, in one of those dreadful tones you hear only in political ads, ticks off the sad litany of budget deficits, soaring DWP rates and record payouts for police misconduct and dangerous roads, with decrepit, rupturing sewer lines and sinkholes big enough to swallow vehicles.

Goodbye, White House.

You can't put all of that on Garcetti. But he's been at City Hall for 17 years. His record is mixed, with a nice little list of triumphs if not a great history of political courage. But if you haven't heard, they play dirty in politics, and in a dogfight, Los Angeles will be made to resemble a Garcetti hellhole, to borrow a phrase from Le Grande Orange.

Look, I don't have a problem with Garcetti traveling all over the place on city business. L.A. is an international city and he ought to be out and about, cheerleading and cutting deals.

And I don't have a problem with him running for president, if that's what he's doing.

But when he's on the road for his own pursuits rather than ours, we shouldn't have to pay for it.

Times reporter Dakota Smith reported last September that Garcetti had spent roughly one-third of the previous 12 months out of town. (Garcetti told me Friday morning he disputes the numbers, arguing that he was in town for parts of the days in which he was marked absent.)

Smith reported that Garcetti was out of California for campaign or political events for 17 days. In addition, of his 112 days out of town, 62 were listed as vacation time or no explanation was provided.

So far this year, Garcetti told me, he's been away only five days on what he would call political ventures.

The Times argued in its lawsuit that city officials are violating the California Public Records Act and the California Constitution in refusing to turn over the records. But the Los Angeles Police Department argues that the details could compromise the mayor's safety, and Garcetti has taken its side.

He said he once told his father, the former district attorney, that he'd rather not have security with him. He said his father told him:

"This isn't for you. This is for your family."

The mayor added:

"I'm not going to go into details about the sorts of threats I get."

OK, fine.

But Garcetti and the police could tell us what the security costs are — airfare, lodging and vehicle rental — without giving up any details that would compromise his security.

Or better yet, when Garcetti is on personal pursuits, he should pay the security costs out of his own campaign funds or his own pocket.

That could only help with his presidential bid.

Politico

California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race

By: Jeremy B. White

SAN FRANCISCO — If there's a point of universal agreement in California politics, it's that the state's housing crisis has spiraled to urgent proportions.

But a ballot initiative designed to tackle the prohibitive cost of housing stands to fracture Democrats here, pitting some of the state's top elected officials against each other and placing some of the party's most influential donors and interest groups at odds.

It's a conflict that resonates beyond California's borders as more and more major cities struggle to do something about the skyrocketing cost of finding a place to live. And the issue is likely to surface in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries since it afflicts some of the biggest and most influential blue states, ranging from California to Illinois to New York.

Already, the initiative has split two prominent California politicians with national aspirations and bases in the urban hubs where the housing crunch is particularly acute: Los Angeles mayor and potential presidential contender **Eric Garcetti** supports the measure, saying it would restore needed local authority to address the crisis. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has embraced an aggressive housing agenda as the frontrunner to be the state's next governor, does not.

The problem may be more acute in California, where soaring rents and a dearth of affordable homes — both of which are helping to drive one of the nation's worst homelessness epidemics — have pushed housing to the top of the agenda.

The issue has already reverberated all the way to Congress, where California Sen Kamala Harris — herself a top 2020 Democratic prospect — earlier this month unveiled a bill to offer tax credits to renters, saying "America's affordable housing crisis has left too many families behind."

In California this fall, voters will be weighing in on a ballot initiative that seeks to hold down rising costs by repealing a 25-year-old state law, the Costa-Hawkins act, that sharply restricts cities' ability to impose rent control.

Enacted with the real estate lobby's support after over a dozen cities had expanded rent control, the law barred those protections from applying to condominiums, single-family homes and new housing. That froze rent control in major cities: it's limited to properties built before October 1978 in Los Angeles and before June 1979 in San Francisco.

"Getting rid of these protections overall, I think, may have unintended consequences on housing production that could be profoundly problematic," Newsom said at a candidate forum earlier this year.

For much of the Democratic base, Proposition 10 offers an obvious antidote to a ubiquitous problem: limiting how much landlords can jack up the rent, supporters say, will make the state more affordable and allay accelerating displacement. The California Democratic Party overwhelmingly voted to support Proposition 10 this month amid chants of "the rent is too damn high."

"No one should have to make a decision between paying rent and buying food or healthcare. It's shocking to me that there is even a debate about rent control at this point," said Susie Shannon, a party activist who spearheaded the

"An awful lot of people think that rent control's part of the answer to our affordable housing problem," state party chair Eric Bauman said. "Amongst the activist group, the vast majority see this as a panacea."

But that stance is running up against warnings from the housing industry that passage of the ballot measure will shrivel the already-scarce supply of rental units and discourage new building, halting recent political momentum on a possible solution. It's an argument that powerful interest groups — including apartment owners, developers, realtors and construction industry unions, all of whom wield significant clout in Sacramento and have contributed heavily to Democrats — are spending millions to amplify.

"Doing away with Costa-Hawkins will limit construction — developers aren't going to want to develop, owners aren't going to want to build if it doesn't make their projects pencil out," said Ron Miller, executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. "The way to get the prices down is supply and demand. We need to keep building."

Research on the effects of rent control is decidedly mixed. California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office found a consensus that the policy keeps people in rent-controlled units but incentivizes landlords to convert rentals into condominiums or other units intended for ownership; it's less conclusive whether rent control stymies new construction and increases rents for non-rent-controlled units.

Opponents of Prop 10 have circulated a recent Stanford University study that concluded San Francisco's rent control laws fueled gentrification, reducing the citywide housing supply and driving up average rents. Rent control advocates say the study proves the policy works, noting that it found people in rent-controlled units paid billions less and were more likely to remain.

The research may be disputed, but the battle lines are becoming clear. Outside of the building unions, labor has been unified in support, with powerhouse groups like the California Teachers Association arguing that housing represents an existential issue for their working-and-middle-class members.

"We're facing a severe teacher shortage in California and one of the main issues is affordable housing - for teachers being able to live in the communities where they teach," said Eric Heins, president of the CTA. "When I lived in San Francisco the only way I was able to afford to live there was with a rent-controlled apartment."

That political landscape, backers of Proposition 10 say, sets up a stark choice for voters: "whether they want to side with the real estate industry on this or with a broad range of community groups," said Dean Preston of Tenants Together, who argued the idea has gained momentum as the housing crisis has worsened.

The sense of urgency was on display earlier this year in Sacramento, when lawmakers took up a bill to repeal Costa-Hawkins. It died after a contentious hearing that saw hours of emotional testimony, with people jamming the hearing room and lining up down the hallway.

"It is, in my opinion, a conversation we can no longer avoid, and it presents an issue that is crying out for relief," said Assemblyman Richard Bloom, the measure's backer, warning that the years-long construction process means new housing "will be too late for too many Californians."

In the preceding months, lawmakers in Sacramento had debated bills that sought to expedite construction in part by limiting the tools cities and counties have to block development. A measure that would have overridden local zoning rules for construction near public transit drew national attention earlier this year as a potential model for other states struggling with exorbitant housing costs — and while the measure failed, the idea is certain to resurface.

Opponents of Prop 10 warn that the measure's passage would halt progress toward more construction, pushing developers into wait-and-see mode.

"I think that should Prop 10 pass, then all of the efforts to try and expedite or make it easier for the development of housing, particularly affordable housing, I think you can for all intents and purposes take a breath for 5 years," said Tom Bannon, CEO of the California Apartment Association.

That leaves California voters with a momentous decision to make. Kevin Reikes, who is not working on the Proposition 10 campaign but has in the past conducted polling for apartment owner and realtor groups, predicted voters would jump at a chance to change the status quo on housing.

"People want to be able to do something," he said, "and this will be a vehicle for the voters to do something."

By: Ariel Sobel

Despite calls from the black and gay communities, prosecutors have declined to file charges against Democratic donor Ed Buck in connection with the fatal overdose of a 26-year-old sex worker in his West Hollywood home.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office issued a document Thursday that stated "admissible evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt" that Buck was responsible for the death of Gemmel Moore in July 2017, the Los Angeles Times reports.

Buck is a longtime political donor who once ran for a seat on the West Hollywood City Council. His Facebook page has boasted dozens of photos of him with prominent Democrats, including former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Moore had been homeless and was working as an escort.

Since Moore's death was classified as an accidental methamphetamine overdose, numerous young black gay men have alleged that Buck has a fetish for shooting drugs into youthful black men he picks up off the street or on hookup sites. Moore had written about Buck injecting him with dangerous drugs before his death.

"I've become addicted to drugs and the worst one at that," Moore wrote in his journal in December 2016. "Ed Buck is the one to thank. He gave me my first injection of crystal meth."

"I ended up back at Buck [sic] house again and got manipulated [sic] into slamming again. I even went to the point where I was forced to doing 4 within a 2day [sic] period. This man is crazy and its [sic] sad. Will I ever get help?" he continued.

The last entry in Moore's diary, dated December 3, 2016, is especially suspicious.

"If it didn't hurt so bad, I'd kill myself but I'll let Ed Buck do it for now," the deceased wrote.

In wake of Moore's death, Congresswoman Karen Bass returned the \$250 she received from Buck and put it toward Moore's funeral expenses. West Hollywood Councilmember John D'Amico gave back the \$25 contribution he received.

Homicide investigators July 10 presented potential charges for Buck, including murder, voluntary manslaughter, and furnishing and possessing drugs on July 10. The District Attorney's office reviewed and rejected them all.

Buck's attorney Seymour Amster said his client had received a "complete exoneration." He told the Times, "Gemmel Moore's death was a tragedy. It's now clear that Ed Buck had nothing to do with it."

Daily Breeze

Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women

Bob Hope himself would likely have saluted – and said "thanks for making new memories."

The USO center that bears his name moved into sharp new quarters on Friday at Los Angeles International Airport. USO officials and volunteers, members of the armed forces and lots of L.A. dignitaries marched into the ground level of LAX's Theme Building on Center Way.

"The men and women of our armed forces put their lives on the line to protect us every day — they deserve a warm welcome when they come home, and when they're traveling through our airport," said Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said in a news release. "This beautiful new facility opens a new chapter in the rich history of the Bob Hope USO at LAX, and I am proud to see it open its doors today."

At more than 7,00 square feet, the new center is twice the size of the airport's former USO near Terminal 3, with more room to offer more services to active military men and women – and their families.

"We are proud to open the doors of our iconic LAX Theme Building to our service members and their families, as the new home of the Bob Hope USO," said Deborah Flint, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) in a news release. "This renovated facility provides the Bob Hope USO an incredible space that reflects progress on our commitment to creating a world-class airport experience for all of our guests."

The center includes a tribute to Hope, who for decades devoted his time to entertaining American troops in the U.S. and abroad, during times of war and peace alike.

The facility includes a snack bar, dining room, private family rooms, movie theater TV lounge, family video-connection rooms, an outdoor pavilion and more. Services are provided free to service members 24 hours a day all year 'round, staffed by more than 250 volunteers.

###



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Fwd: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:56 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti

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LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

“Very little in the way of educational activity,” Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. “At one point, they tried to show the movie ‘Christopher Robin,’ but the sound quality was so bad it couldn’t be understood. Couldn’t read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything.”

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. “We kept him home today,” she said of her son, “and probably will for the rest of the week.”

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers “heroes.”

“Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids’ side,” García said. “We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike.”

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

“As I’ve said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I’ll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this,” he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

“This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles,” said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of “looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We’ve got to change that.”

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats — outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5%

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At a school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLALStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000

yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." <https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodman, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodman, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said

argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,'" said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measure passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group

As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone

By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits,

extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and “deprivation of honest services.”

The warrant also seeks “all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors” and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others “assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes.”

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, “the scandal is what’s legal.”

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used “straw donors” to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The “Committee for a Safer Los Angeles” was an entity called an “independent expenditure committee.” Garcetti’s adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was “barely aware” of it and had “nothing” to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of “behested payments,” unlimited contributions that are made at the “behest” of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has “behested” over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the “Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles,” and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the “Los Angeles Parks Foundation” at Garcetti’s request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price “behested” over \$245,000 for the “Coalition for Responsible Community Development,” which has a stated mission to “improve local planning.”

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he’d have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112

officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really “cost-neutral” as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, “because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants.”

“It’s frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on,” said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. “The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments,” Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I’m not actually sure that’s true. Democrats might not have an “inevitable” frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our “five corners” series on the Democratic field, you’re going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The “five corners” refers to what

Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party

picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance. It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case — so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

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Rita Fernandez <rita.fernandez@lacity.org>

Fwd: MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

1 message

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 10:55 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?](#)

LA Daily News

Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised \$2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving \$1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.

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SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

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Sun, Jul 29, 2018 at 6:59 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?](#)

[POLITICO: California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race](#)

[ADVOCATE: No Charges Against Political Donor Accused of Drugging Man to Death](#)

[DAILY BREEZE: Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women](#)

[CBS LOS ANGELES: Political Expert Weighs In On U.S. Debt, Cohen Tapes, Mayor Garcetti \(LINK ONLY\)](#)

LA Times

Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?

By: Steve Lopez

Is he or isn't he?

That's the question for L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

Is he running for president of the United States, as has been speculated for months, or not?

If so, and it comes down to Trump or Garcetti, I'm with Garcetti.

Then again, if it comes down to Trump or a fig tree, I like figs.

But don't you have to have your own house in order before you consider trading up? Given the current state of Los Angeles, which has become the nation's largest tent city, it's not as if Garcetti could put himself out there on a "mission accomplished" victory tour.

It's hard to say, though, whether Garcetti is going to run, because he doesn't seem to be entirely clear on the matter. He claims he isn't focused on life after City Hall, despite trips to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, three early-voting states you do not fly to just to sample the ice cream.

"I'm not interested in my next job," Garcetti told me Friday by phone, speaking from Hanoi in Vietnam. He's on a 10-day Asian tour, drumming up business and tourism for Los Angeles.

But then he said something that made it sound as though he's going through a bit of a Walter Mitty phase. James Thurber's character imagined himself as a fighter pilot or surgeon, and I'm willing to bet Garcetti has imagined what it would be like to wake up in the White House.

"I'm concerned about this country, period. I think all of us should be. This is the worst moment I've lived in in my lifetime," he said, killing any chance he might have had to get invited to Mar a Lago.

Garcetti listed, among his many concerns, climate change, civil rights and America's stature abroad.

"There are a couple of things missing in this country: kindness, moral leadership, and people who deliver, who don't invent problems they can't solve, but look at real problems and address them. Potholes, infrastructure, making college free, [raising] the minimum wage," Garcetti said.

Also missing, by the way, are the records on what it costs taxpayers for Garcetti's security detail to travel with him. The LAPD has refused to say, Garcetti has deferred to the police, and the L.A. Times has filed a lawsuit, which I'll get to in a minute.

First, let's talk politics.

No one has ever gone directly from any City Hall to the White House, and you would have better odds playing the lottery than betting on Garcetti to break the spell.

But who knows?

If a barking braggart can insult women for their looks, make fun of a disabled guy, set race relations back 50 years, lie pathologically, boast about grabbing women by their crotches, tell working stiffs he's too smart to pay taxes, insist the first black president was from Africa and still become president, a reasonably intelligent Chihuahua could get elected, and no one can be ruled out.

"Garcetti has as much of a chance as Trump did two years before the 2016 election, and as much as Obama had two years before 2008," said Fernando Guerra, director of Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Even then, how would Garcetti beat Trump, whose happy hordes think he's the lord and redeemer?

A third-party candidate like Ohio Gov. John Kasich draws Republican votes from Trump and the Democrat slips through the back door of the White House, Guerra theorized.

The problem is that Garcetti is so far down the list of potential Democratic nominees, he's almost invisible. Even among Californians, you'd have to rank him behind U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, if not U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff.

And then you've got Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden at the top of the list, each of them miles ahead of Garcetti in terms of name recognition and access to money.

A lot of political insiders guess Garcetti is more interested in branding himself as a contender so he gets consideration for a Cabinet post if a Democrat beats Trump, or because it might help in a run to replace California Sen. Dianne Feinstein when she retires.

But let's say against all odds, Garcetti emerges as a true contender. He's young, he's Mexican-Italian-Jewish, he speaks Spanish, he talks a good game on tech and transit and the future of cities, he's green, he's a sharp public speaker.

What happens then?

A TV ad runs. One minute, maybe, although 30 seconds could do the trick. You see homeless encampments everywhere, hellish traffic and caravans of people leaving town for affordable housing in Nevada. The narrator, in one of those dreadful tones you hear only in political ads, ticks off the sad litany of budget deficits, soaring DWP rates and record payouts for police misconduct and dangerous roads, with decrepit, rupturing sewer lines and sinkholes big enough to swallow vehicles.

Goodbye, White House.

You can't put all of that on Garcetti. But he's been at City Hall for 17 years. His record is mixed, with a nice little list of triumphs if not a great history of political courage. But if you haven't heard, they play dirty in politics, and in a dogfight, Los Angeles will be made to resemble a Garcetti hellhole, to borrow a phrase from Le Grande Orange.

Look, I don't have a problem with Garcetti traveling all over the place on city business. L.A. is an international city and he ought to be out and about, cheerleading and cutting deals.

And I don't have a problem with him running for president, if that's what he's doing.

But when he's on the road for his own pursuits rather than ours, we shouldn't have to pay for it.

Times reporter Dakota Smith reported last September that Garcetti had spent roughly one-third of the previous 12 months out of town. (Garcetti told me Friday morning he disputes the numbers, arguing that he was in town for parts of the days in which he was marked absent.)

Smith reported that Garcetti was out of California for campaign or political events for 17 days. In addition, of his 112 days out of town, 62 were listed as vacation time or no explanation was provided.

So far this year, Garcetti told me, he's been away only five days on what he would call political ventures.

The Times argued in its lawsuit that city officials are violating the California Public Records Act and the California Constitution in refusing to turn over the records. But the Los Angeles Police Department argues that the details could compromise the mayor's safety, and Garcetti has taken its side.

"To be clear, I pay my own costs," Garcetti told me about travel that is not related to city business.

He said he once told his father, the former district attorney, that he'd rather not have security with him. He said his father told him:

"This isn't for you. This is for your family."

The mayor added:

"I'm not going to go into details about the sorts of threats I get."

OK, fine.

But Garcetti and the police could tell us what the security costs are — airfare, lodging and vehicle rental — without giving up any details that would compromise his security.

Or better yet, when Garcetti is on personal pursuits, he should pay the security costs out of his own campaign funds or his own pocket.

That could only help with his presidential bid.

Politico

California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race

By: Jeremy B. White

SAN FRANCISCO — If there's a point of universal agreement in California politics, it's that the state's housing crisis has spiraled to urgent proportions.

But a ballot initiative designed to tackle the prohibitive cost of housing stands to fracture Democrats here, pitting some of the state's top elected officials against each other and placing some of the party's most influential donors and interest groups at odds.

It's a conflict that resonates beyond California's borders as more and more major cities struggle to do something about the skyrocketing cost of finding a place to live. And the issue is likely to surface in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries since it afflicts some of the biggest and most influential blue states, ranging from California to Illinois to New York.

Already, the initiative has split two prominent California politicians with national aspirations and bases in the urban hubs where the housing crunch is particularly acute: Los Angeles mayor and potential presidential contender **Eric Garcetti** supports the measure, saying it would restore needed local authority to address the crisis. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has embraced an aggressive housing agenda as the frontrunner to be the state's next governor, does not.

The problem may be more acute in California, where soaring rents and a dearth of affordable homes — both of which are helping to drive one of the nation's worst homelessness epidemics — have pushed housing to the top of the agenda.

The issue has already reverberated all the way to Congress, where California Sen Kamala Harris — herself a top 2020 Democratic prospect — earlier this month unveiled a bill to offer tax credits to renters, saying "America's affordable housing crisis has left too many families behind."

In California this fall, voters will be weighing in on a ballot initiative that seeks to hold down rising costs by repealing a 25-year-old state law, the Costa-Hawkins act, that sharply restricts cities' ability to impose rent control.

Enacted with the real estate lobby's support after over a dozen cities had expanded rent control, the law barred those protections from applying to condominiums, single-family homes and new housing. That froze rent control in major cities: it's limited to properties built before October 1978 in Los Angeles and before June 1979 in San Francisco.

"Getting rid of these protections overall, I think, may have unintended consequences on housing production that could be profoundly problematic," Newsom said at a candidate forum earlier this year.

For much of the Democratic base, Proposition 10 offers an obvious antidote to a ubiquitous problem: limiting how much landlords can jack up the rent, supporters say, will make the state more affordable and allay accelerating displacement. The California Democratic Party overwhelmingly voted to support Proposition 10 this month amid chants of "the rent is too damn high."

"No one should have to make a decision between paying rent and buying food or healthcare. It's shocking to me that there is even a debate about rent control at this point," said Susie Shannon, a party activist who spearheaded the convention push.

"An awful lot of people think that rent control's part of the answer to our affordable housing problem," state party chair Eric Bauman said. "Amongst the activist group, the vast majority see this as a panacea."

But that stance is running up against warnings from the housing industry that passage of the ballot measure will shrivel the already-scarce supply of rental units and discourage new building, halting recent political momentum on a possible solution. It's an argument that powerful interest groups — including apartment owners, developers, realtors and construction industry unions, all of whom wield significant clout in Sacramento and have contributed heavily to Democrats — are spending millions to amplify.

"Doing away with Costa-Hawkins will limit construction — developers aren't going to want to develop, owners aren't going to want to build if it doesn't make their projects pencil out," said Ron Miller, executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. "The way to get the prices down is supply and demand. We need to keep building."

Research on the effects of rent control is decidedly mixed. California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office found a consensus that the policy keeps people in rent-controlled units but incentivizes landlords to convert rentals into condominiums or other units intended for ownership; it's less conclusive whether rent control stymies new construction and increases rents for non-rent-controlled units.

Opponents of Prop 10 have circulated a recent Stanford University study that concluded San Francisco's rent control laws fueled gentrification, reducing the citywide housing supply and driving up average rents. Rent control advocates say the study proves the policy works, noting that it found people in rent-controlled units paid billions less and were more likely to remain.

The research may be disputed, but the battle lines are becoming clear. Outside of the building unions, labor has been unified in support, with powerhouse groups like the California Teachers Association arguing that housing represents an existential issue for their working-and-middle-class members.

"We're facing a severe teacher shortage in California and one of the main issues is affordable housing - for teachers being able to live in the communities where they teach," said Eric Heins, president of the CTA. "When I lived in San Francisco the only way I was able to afford to live there was with a rent-controlled apartment."

That political landscape, backers of Proposition 10 say, sets up a stark choice for voters: "whether they want to side with the real estate industry on this or with a broad range of community groups," said Dean Preston of Tenants Together, who argued the idea has gained momentum as the housing crisis has worsened.

The sense of urgency was on display earlier this year in Sacramento, when lawmakers took up a bill to repeal Costa-Hawkins. It died after a contentious hearing that saw hours of emotional testimony, with people jamming the hearing room and lining up down the hallway.

"It is, in my opinion, a conversation we can no longer avoid, and it presents an issue that is crying out for relief," said Assemblyman Richard Bloom, the measure's backer, warning that the years-long construction process means new housing "will be too late for too many Californians."

In the preceding months, lawmakers in Sacramento had debated bills that sought to expedite construction in part by limiting the tools cities and counties have to block development. A measure that would have overridden local zoning rules for construction near public transit drew national attention earlier this year as a potential model for other states struggling with exorbitant housing costs — and while the measure failed, the idea is certain to resurface.

Opponents of Prop 10 warn that the measure's passage would halt progress toward more construction, pushing developers into wait-and-see mode.

"I think that should Prop 10 pass, then all of the efforts to try and expedite or make it easier for the development of housing, particularly affordable housing, I think you can for all intents and purposes take a breath for 5 years," said Tom Bannon, CEO of the California Apartment Association.

That leaves California voters with a momentous decision to make. Kevin Reikes, who is not working on the Proposition 10 campaign but has in the past conducted polling for apartment owner and realtor groups, predicted voters would jump at a chance to change the status quo on housing.

"People want to be able to do something," he said, "and this will be a vehicle for the voters to do something."

The Advocate
No Charges Against Political Donor Accused of Drugging Man to Death

By: Ariel Sobel

Despite calls from the black and gay communities, prosecutors have declined to file charges against Democratic donor Ed Buck in connection with the fatal overdose of a 26-year-old sex worker in his West Hollywood home.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office issued a document Thursday that stated "admissible evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt" that Buck was responsible for the death of Gemmel Moore in July 2017, the Los Angeles Times reports.

Buck is a longtime political donor who once ran for a seat on the West Hollywood City Council. His Facebook page has boasted dozens of photos of him with prominent Democrats, including former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Moore had been homeless and was working as an escort.

Since Moore's death was classified as an accidental methamphetamine overdose, numerous young black gay men have alleged that Buck has a fetish for shooting drugs into youthful black men he picks up off the street or on hookup sites. Moore had written about Buck injecting him with dangerous drugs before his death.

"I've become addicted to drugs and the worst one at that," Moore wrote in his journal in December 2016. "Ed Buck is the one to thank. He gave me my first injection of crystal meth."

"I ended up back at Buck [sic] house again and got manipulated [sic] into slamming again. I even went to the point where I was forced to doing 4 within a 2day [sic] period. This man is crazy and its [sic] sad. Will I ever get help?" he continued.

The last entry in Moore's diary, dated December 3, 2016, is especially suspicious.

"If it didn't hurt so bad, I'd kill myself but I'll let Ed Buck do it for now," the deceased wrote.

In wake of Moore's death, Congresswoman Karen Bass returned the \$250 she received from Buck and put it toward Moore's funeral expenses. West Hollywood Councilmember John D'Amico gave back the \$25 contribution he received.

Homicide investigators July 10 presented potential charges for Buck, including murder, voluntary manslaughter, and furnishing and possessing drugs on July 10. The District Attorney's office reviewed and rejected them all.

Buck's attorney Seymour Amster said his client had received a "complete exoneration." He told the Times, "Gemmel Moore's death was a tragedy. It's now clear that Ed Buck had nothing to do with it."

Daily Breeze

Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women

Bob Hope himself would likely have saluted – and said "thanks for making new memories."

The USO center that bears his name moved into sharp new quarters on Friday at Los Angeles International Airport. USO officials and volunteers, members of the armed forces and lots of L.A. dignitaries marched into the ground level of LAX's Theme Building on Center Way.

"The men and women of our armed forces put their lives on the line to protect us every day — they deserve a warm welcome when they come home, and when they're traveling through our airport," said Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said in a news release. "This beautiful new facility opens a new chapter in the rich history of the Bob Hope USO at LAX, and I am proud to see it open its doors today."

At more than 7,00 square feet, the new center is twice the size of the airport's former USO near Terminal 3, with more room to offer more services to active military men and women – and their families.

"We are proud to open the doors of our iconic LAX Theme Building to our service members and their families, as the new home of the Bob Hope USO," said Deborah Flint, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) in a news release. "This renovated facility provides the Bob Hope USO an incredible space that reflects progress on our commitment to creating a world-class airport experience for all of our guests."

The center includes a tribute to Hope, who for decades devoted his time to entertaining American troops in the U.S. and abroad, during times of war and peace alike.

The facility includes a snack bar, dining room, private family rooms, movie theater TV lounge, family video-connection rooms, an outdoor pavilion and more. Services are provided free to service members 24 hours a day all year 'round, staffed by more than 250 volunteers.

Information: bobhopeuso.org.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

1 message

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Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 7:54 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice](#)

[LA TIMES: Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike](#)

[NY TIMES: The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors](#)

[CNBC: 2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis](#)

[SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS: Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races](#)

LA Times

How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice

By: Dave Zahniser, Cindy Chang, and Richard Winton

Last Monday morning, Los Angeles civic leaders were in suspense.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had said he would probably announce his pick for police chief that day.

Text messages and phone calls flew between people who were usually in the know. "Have you heard?" "Still no word?"

There was a reason no one had heard. The mayor had not yet made up his mind.

He had been mulling the possibilities for almost a month. This was perhaps the most important hiring decision he would make, at a time when he was considering a bid for president of the United States.

The three finalists for the job — LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos, Bill Scott, chief of the San Francisco Police Department, and LAPD Assistant Chief Michel Moore — were more similar than different. All were LAPD veterans who embraced the kinder, gentler ethos of the post-Rodney King era. Each was a believer in the reforms begun by previous chiefs, promising to deepen ties with minority residents and find ways to reduce the number of shootings by police officers.

Each brought his own distinctive skills, personality and political upsides.

The mayor had consulted dozens of people in the run-up to his decision: law enforcement experts, union presidents, civil rights advocates, nonprofit executives, police officers, and, perhaps most crucial, the man who is vacating the post: Police Chief Charlie Beck.

Garcetti had conducted four rounds of in-person interviews, one with City Council members taking the lead. At one point, he even assigned the three finalists written homework, asking them to outline their ideas on technology, training and other topics.

The clock ticked past noon. Time was running out to convene an afternoon news conference.

At 1:17 p.m., Garcetti picked up his phone. The number he dialed was Moore's.

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On May 2, the city's civilian police commissioners interviewed five LAPD veterans, drawn from 31 applicants for the job. They quickly settled on their top three.

Arcos was genial and empathetic, a product of Atwater Village when it was still gang-ridden and working-class. If chosen, he would make history as the city's first Latino police chief at a time when President Trump's hard-line deportation policies have made some immigrants fearful of law enforcement.

Scott grew up as an African American in Alabama during the civil rights era. After 27 years with the LAPD, he was well-known in South Los Angeles as a leader who viscerally felt the costs of arresting and incarcerating young black men.

And then there was Moore, known as a crime statistics wonk so well-versed in the ins and outs of managing the LAPD's 10,000 sworn officers that his learning curve as chief would essentially be zero.

Moore's father was Basque, and he is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, but his heritage has not played a large role in defining his identity at the LAPD.

Four of the five commissioners ranked Moore first, but that was no guarantee of success. Moore had also been the commission's top choice in 2009, when the job ended up going to Beck.

Beck was not retiring until June 27, but the appointment would need to be confirmed by the City Council, and Garcetti had indicated earlier that he hoped to be finished by the end of May.

The mayor set to work, seeking advice from dozens of people, including council members, immigrant rights advocates, former LAPD Chief Bill Bratton and San Francisco officials such as Dist. Atty. George Gascon.

Moore, who serves as Beck's No. 2, made it clear during the first round of interviews that he wasn't simply seeking to continue the policies of the current administration, Garcetti told The Times later. Instead, he offered his own ideas for running the LAPD.

Moore talked about ways that footage from the body cameras worn by police officers could be better used in the department's training, the mayor recalled. He also discussed how the LAPD could help homeless people get low-level citations expunged on their way to obtaining jobs and permanent housing.

"This was the first time where I could see him as a chief," the mayor said. "He had some pretty bold and brave ideas. It wasn't who people expected Michel Moore to be. Some have said he has a reputation for being real robotic, too tightly wound. But he was very much at ease."

Garcetti also turned to Connie Rice, a civil rights attorney who was once a fierce critic of the LAPD. Rice, a confidante to several mayors, had advocated for Beck the last time around. This time, she said, she did not publicly back a candidate, instead couching the conversation in terms of "if you want 'X,' you can select this candidate. If you want 'Y,' you can pick this person."

Plenty of others stepped forward to let Garcetti know they had a favorite.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights, left Garcetti a voicemail early on informing him that she favored Arcos.

Salas, a longtime Garcetti supporter, wanted a police chief from a neighborhood that had "consistently felt the brunt of aggressive policing." And she believed that a Latino police chief would be a countervailing force against a president "who is diminishing and demeaning" people of Mexican descent.

Garcetti also consulted Danny Bakewell, publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, an African American newspaper. Bakewell favored Scott, according to the mayor. So did a group of largely African American pastors who argued that the San Francisco chief has a deep understanding of South Los Angeles, which has had a fraught history with the LAPD.

Still, one of the city's most powerful voices on police reform came out in favor of Moore. Former Los Angeles Urban League President John Mack, who served on the police commission from 2005 to 2013, called Garcetti in late May, after the mayor had finished three rounds of interviews, and spent half an hour making his case.

Mack cited Moore's work on community policing and his track record on combating police brutality and racism in the LAPD. Moore "would build upon the reform, the progress, that's already been made," Mack said he told Garcetti.

As his self-imposed Monday deadline approached, Garcetti also called two police commissioners, Matt Johnson and Steve Soboroff — both Moore supporters.

Johnson said that in several conversations, the mayor delved into each candidate's ability to communicate with residents across the city as well as with the LAPD's rank-and-file officers. He was looking for a chief who would not impose an agenda but would listen and then win people over, Johnson said.

"He was thinking this through from every possible angle," Johnson said of Garcetti.

Soboroff spoke with Garcetti at about 2 p.m. Sunday. The two men discussed criteria such as who you would want at the helm if an earthquake occurred the day after the swearing-in. But Garcetti remained undecided.

Moore had been impressive from the first interview, Garcetti later told The Times. Scott began to look better and better, and Arcos remained in the mix.

"The candidates were so strong that he was really struggling," Soboroff said.

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In recent months, Garcetti, a Democrat, has traveled to early presidential primary states, including Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

As a Spanish-speaker of Mexican, Italian and Jewish heritage, Garcetti understands Los Angeles' divisive racial history. His father, Gil, was the district attorney who lost the O.J. Simpson prosecution in 1995.

On the national political stage, a police appointment makes a difference only if the chief does very well or very badly, said Jack Pitney, a professor of politics at Claremont McKenna College.

The publicity Garcetti would have gained by appointing Los Angeles' first Latino police chief would not have a lasting effect, particularly since the mayor already appeals to Latino voters with his fluent Spanish, Pitney said.

Moore ticked a box in another key area. As head of patrol operations, he is a major architect of the LAPD's crime-fighting strategies.

"If the chief were particularly ineffective in fighting crime, and people saw Los Angeles as being disorderly, that would be a liability," Pitney said. "Conversely, if the new chief is extremely effective, that's an asset."

The three finalists were not likely to differ substantively on immigration, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

But naming Arcos as chief would have been valuable symbolically, amplifying the LAPD's immigrant-friendly message, Guerra said.

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On Monday morning — the day of the expected announcement — Garcetti met with Beck at City Hall, hashing out the strengths of the three candidates in an hour-long conversation.

Beck, who promoted all three finalists to top positions in the LAPD, told The Times that he did not initially reveal his favorite to Garcetti. But partway into the mayor's search, Beck recommended Moore as a reformer who has played a key role in the department's major initiatives, from equipping officers with body cameras to training them how to reduce the use of deadly force.

Beck also thought Garcetti and Moore would get along.

"He has an unparalleled work ethic, an unparalleled breadth of experience with the LAPD. He's super smart and very responsive to those he works with," Beck said of Moore. "The mayor and he are definitely alike in that way."

Garcetti, for his part, said he did not feel that Beck was pushing him in a particular direction. Instead, the chief argued that chemistry and trust would be crucial in the decision.

"He said, 'This is all about who you click with,'" the mayor said.

Garcetti then reached out to Rice again. And he called Craig Lally, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents LAPD officers. The league did not publicly endorse a candidate, but it was known within City Hall that the group's board favored someone other than Moore.

Lally said he told the mayor that the next chief would have to confront the issue of patrol officers doing more with less, rushing to and from calls that often involve homeless or mentally ill people.

Until the end, Garcetti said, he was not leaning toward Moore but "went back and forth with these three guys pretty consistently."

About 15 minutes after making up his mind, Garcetti called Moore. He followed with a call to Beck. The news media were told to be at City Hall at 3:30 p.m.

As the cameras rolled, Garcetti stepped out, flanked by his new police chief.

LA Times

Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike

By: Dave Zahniser

When Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled his yearly budget in April, he promised major progress in an area long neglected by City Hall: reconstruction of the city's worst roads.

Garcetti called for the city to more than double the amount of money it spends on repairs to D- and F-ranked streets, where pavement is so damaged that it frequently needs to be rebuilt — typically at a cost of \$1 million or more per lane mile.

Yet a major portion of that work cannot happen unless the City Council increases the fee charged to utilities that rip up and repair the city's streets. And in recent weeks, business leaders have been pushing back on the idea.

Garcetti's spending plan calls for the city to collect \$70.7 million in Street Damage Restoration Fees in 2018-19, up from the \$8.3 million budgeted for the current year. About \$30 million of that new revenue would be spent to repair L.A.'s worst roads, with additional money going to maintain streets that are still in decent condition.

The plan has drawn written objections from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, AT&T and others, who say it needs more public vetting.

The Central City Assn., a group that focuses heavily on real estate development, warned city lawmakers that the fee increase would have a disproportionate effect on housing construction downtown, where streets are being torn up to provide utility hookups for new residential buildings.

"We do not want to see the Street Damage Restoration Fee become a means by which downtown ... becomes the primary funding source for road reconstruction throughout Los Angeles," Jessica Lall, the group's president and chief executive, wrote in a letter in May.

About 25% of L.A.'s streets, or about 7,000 lane miles, are considered to be in poor condition, according to the city's most recent evaluation.

The Street Damage Restoration Fee was created in 1998 to help the city offset the cost incurred when utilities cut into public streets. Public works officials say those cuts, even when they are refilled, cause pavement to degrade at a faster rate, forcing the city to make additional repairs.

Although businesses have been the most vocal, the biggest effect could ultimately be felt by the Department of Water and Power, which frequently performs work on underground water pipes and electrical lines.

If the increase is approved, the city-owned utility is expected to spend nearly \$38 million annually on street damage fees, according to an analysis prepared for city lawmakers.

The DWP, whose board is composed of mayoral appointees, has voiced no public objections to the proposal. But Jack Humphreville, a frequent critic of city spending, called the increase a "revenue grab" by the city's elected officials — one that will result in higher bills for DWP customers.

"They're ramrodding this thing through, and the ratepayers are going to get hosed," said Humphreville, who belongs to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, a group that appears before lawmakers each year to present its views on the city budget.

Humphreville questioned whether the fee increase is aimed at making up for funds lost when Garcetti and the City Council agreed to scale back the amount of money the DWP pays the city each year to balance the budget. The reduction was part of a legal settlement backed by lawmakers last year.

Garcetti and other city officials say there's no connection between the rise in the street damage fee and last year's reduction in the DWP payment. They say officials have spent years studying the need for the city to recoup all of the costs incurred when utilities dig trenches on public rights-of-way.

"When utilities and telecom companies cut into our streets, they should be the ones paying to fix the damage," Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar said in an email to The Times. "Right now, the city has to cover more than 90% of what it costs to fully restore the street after the work on an underground pipe, cable or gas line is done."

Comisar said Garcetti's proposal was spurred by a 2014 audit from City Controller Ron Galperin, which concluded that the city had missed out on up to \$190 million in damage fees from utilities that performed street work since 1998.

In that report, auditors concluded the fee had not been calculated in a way that reflected all of the costs borne by the city from utility repairs.

"It's been 12 years since this [fee] has been reset, so we have to catch up," said Kevin James, a Garcetti appointee who presides over the Board of Public Works, which recommended that the fee be increased and reworked. "I agree with the controller — we should have done it years ago, but we didn't."

Still, the City Council is hedging its bets on whether the city will receive all of the fee revenue planned by the mayor for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

When they approved Garcetti's budget May 21, city lawmakers ensured that more than \$19 million in repairs planned for D- and F-rated streets cannot move ahead without another council vote — a move designed to ensure the money is available to pay for the work.

Some council members have declined to commit themselves to the fee hike envisioned by the mayor, saying that they want to study it more closely.

The fee for ripping up residential streets ranges from \$5.18 to \$7.78 per square foot, depending on how recently a street has been repaired. Under the proposal heading to the council, it would be increased to \$8.24 per square foot, Comisar said.

On major streets, such as Sunset, Wilshire and Venice boulevards, the fee would be raised to \$19.44 per square foot. That fee currently ranges from \$14.18 to \$21.26, depending on when the most recent repairs occurred.

Business groups have also questioned Garcetti's push to change the way the street damage fees would be charged. Under the proposal, utilities would pay a fee not just for an area where a trench is dug, but for any part of the street that sits within 5 feet of that trench.

City officials say that when a trench is cut and refilled, nearby soil underneath the street shifts, reducing support for the pavement. That causes it to become weakened over time, requiring more frequent repairs, they say.

Garcetti's appointees on the Board of Public Works have also suggested that council members look at charging the damage fee to Southern California Gas Co. Such a step would require the negotiation of a new franchise agreement, mayoral aides say.

The gas company has argued that imposition of the fee would lead to higher construction costs that would ultimately be absorbed by its ratepayers.

"Simply put, these additional fees are passed along to our customers and have the potential to significantly impact new businesses or homes requesting utility service," Geoffrey Danker, manager of franchise, fees and planning for the utility, wrote in a letter to city lawmakers.

NY Times

The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors

By: Shane Goldmacher

Senator Elizabeth Warren has come calling as recently as April. Kamala Harris, the first-term senator of California, has made repeated visits, starting as early as her third month in office. Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is also no stranger to the big-money donor world of New York; he was here in April — his third such visit in three months.

It will be months before Mr. Biden, Ms. Harris, Ms. Warren or most potential presidential aspirants will barnstorm across the farmlands of Iowa, dig into a low-country boil in South Carolina or field questions at a town-hall meeting in New Hampshire.

But with American presidential races requiring an ever-dizzying amount of money, an early, behind-the-scenes 2020 contest is already taking place: the New York money primary.

Over passed appetizers, intimate dinners and private board room meet-and-greets, a parade of nationally ambitious Democrats have been cycling through the offices and living rooms of the Manhattan money set.

Top New York donors and Democratic fund-raisers, in more than two dozen interviews, said that their phones rarely stop buzzing as candidates blitz one of the densest concentrations of Democratic wealth in the country.

Others calling and visiting include Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor; Mayor **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles; former Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts; Gov. Steve Bullock of Montana; and the former Missouri Senate candidate, Jason Kander. Then there are the ambitious locals who already keep their donor lists close at hand: Gov. Andrew M.

Senators Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

"When a candidate calls me to talk about 'strategy and issues,' you grab hold of your wallet for dear life," said Robert Zimmerman, a prominent New York donor and a member of the Democratic National Committee who has been in touch with multiple prospective candidates.

For now, it is more about making connections than collecting cash, as few donors are committing at this stage. But to run a serious primary campaign, Democrats know they will have to amass tens of millions of dollars in the coming two years. Even if they got started as early as this July (and none of the top tier is expected to get into the race until after the midterms), a candidate would have to raise nearly \$55,000 per day to construct a \$30 million war chest by the end of 2019.

New York will be crucial to that task. More than \$500 million came from the New York City area to political campaigns in the last full election — the most of any single metropolitan region in the country, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. New York State had 15 of the top 50 ZIP codes for giving in the 2016 elections; no other state, even California, had half that many.

While similar donor dynamics are playing out in other affluent liberal enclaves, such as Silicon Valley and Hollywood, the donor chase is especially early and intense here because, for the first time since at least 2004, there is no prohibitive front-runner to corner the market on all that New York campaign cash, a role that Hillary Clinton had played in the last two open Democratic nominating contests.

In March, Mr. Biden was the special guest at a \$10,000 per-person dinner benefiting House Democrats, at the home of the billionaire hedge fund manager James S. Chanos. In April, he attended a private fund-raising lunch at the home of a major Democratic donor, Dennis Mehiel, for his political action committee.

The night after Mr. Biden's April visit, Ms. Warren mingled with donors at the Manhattan home of Mark Green, a former New York City public advocate, the official reason being her 2018 re-election bid (for which she has already stockpiled \$15 million). A few months earlier, Meyer S. Frucher, the vice chairman of Nasdaq, hosted another fund-raising reception for Ms. Warren, according to people familiar with the gatherings.

Many donors said they gravitated toward politicians focused on the 2018 elections. Laetitia Garriott de Cayeux, who opened her Murray Hill home to Mr. Biden for the February event, said she did so "because I see Joe Biden going to every corner of the country to get Democrats elected in 2018."

Sarah Kovner, an influential Democratic fund-raiser in the city, said she ignores those too focused on the presidential campaign. "Fine — but not now, not from me. Not with Jon Tester in trouble and Claire McCaskill and Kyrsten Sinema in need," she said, rattling off the names of Democrats in key Senate races. "That's what I'm concentrating on."

Almost every politician visiting New York can claim a purpose other than their own unspoken ambition — Mr. Biden for his PAC, Ms. Warren for her re-election.

Mr. McAuliffe, a prolific and voracious fund-raiser who was once the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been raising money for a new group focused on redistricting. But when Mr. McAuliffe recently met with donors at an event that the longtime Clinton adviser, Douglas J. Band, helped put together, his spiel included a half-hour on his successes as governor, according to two attendees, despite saying he was focused entirely on the midterms.

Ms. Harris, who was sworn into her Senate seat in January 2017, trekked to New York two months into her term to put on a free "thank you" event for her big New York contributors at the Regency Hotel in March 2017. That summer, Michael Kempner, a public-relations executive and top Democratic bundler, hosted an event for her at his spread in the Hamptons. She and Senator Booker attended another dinner with politically engaged black executives in Bridgehampton, N.Y. More recently, the fashion retailer Lauren Santo Domingo, who is married to a billionaire beer heir, organized an event for Ms. Harris's PAC in February.

Mr. Patrick, now at Bain Capital, the private equity firm made famous for launching Mitt Romney's business career, does not have a political entity he is raising money for, but he has still kept in touch with New York donors, including attending a donor dinner last spring and an event to mingle with contributors more recently at the Manhattan offices of Morgan Stanley, according to people familiar with the events.

The lone Democratic outlier from the money chase is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who bypassed large contributors in his 2016 presidential bid and still raised about \$230 million, almost entirely from a torrent of small online donations — a model that many Democrats are trying to emulate.

But in an era when a single billionaire can, more or less, sustain a presidential candidate through a super PAC, the courtship of the donor class has anything but slowed.

There is a distinctive hierarchy to this donor dance: the bigger the contributor, the smaller the gathering. Billionaires and the biggest bundlers get almost limitless one-on-one time. The next tranche of mega-millionaires and political financiers get intimate dinners or office gatherings. Larger receptions are for standard-fare contributors.

Ronald Perelman, the billionaire donor, organized a fund-raiser for Ms. Harris's PAC at the offices of his company, MacAndrews & Forbes, last December. Earlier in the year, Mr. Perelman, who contributes to both Republicans and Democrats, had another ambitious Californian, Mr. Garcetti, for a cocktail hour among donors at his estate in the Hamptons.

Mr. Garcetti, who is known to hand out his personal cellphone number to contributors and encourage them to stay in touch, was last in New York in March, a trip that included some private catch-up time with top contributors as he raises money for his federal PAC to help Democrats in the midterms.

Another politician whom donors mentioned as solicitous of New York is Steve Bullock, the governor of Montana. He pitches himself as the rare Democrat who can get elected and get along in a deep red state. He, too, has a federal PAC and has been hiring strategists with national experience.

Other younger politicians, who are far from national figures, are still seeking exposure to the moneyed class of Manhattan, including Pete Buttigieg, the 36-year-old mayor of South Bend, Ind., (four visits already in 2018) and Mr. Kander, the 37-year-old former Missouri secretary of state who lost a Senate race in 2016 (two recent visits included donor events).

As Stu Loeser, a veteran Democratic strategist in New York, put it, "The road to the White House runs down 57th Street."

It is more than a figure of speech. In the 2016 cycle, two of the top five ZIP codes for political giving in America — 10022 and 10019, which span the length of 57th Street across Midtown Manhattan just south of Central Park — combined for \$120 million in donations, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

New York contributors say there has not been this much activity since at least 2003, the last open Democratic contest without Mrs. Clinton.

While Mrs. Clinton was seen as holding a near-stranglehold on prominent New York donors, none of the current New York-area politicians considered possible 2020 candidates — Ms. Gillibrand, Mr. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio or Mr. Booker — engender a similar sense of near-absolute loyalty.

"You can analogize this to a dating process in which there are still a lot of blind dates and first dates but not yet a lot of second dates or third dates," said Steven Rattner, a Wall Street executive and veteran Democratic fund-raiser. "Let alone anyone going steady or getting married."

CNBC

2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis

By: Julia Boorstin

One of the biggest challenges for the company founders and CEOs, right up there with scaling the company into a sustainable business, is finding qualified employees. Yet those on CNBC's Disruptor 50 list — the 50 companies CNBC believes have the potential to upend multibillion-dollar industries to become the next generation of great public companies — revealed they are actually seeing progress when it comes to hiring.

This is according to CNBC's annual survey of CNBC's Disruptor 50 companies, conducted from April 16 to May 16, 2018. More than 60 percent of respondents said it's easier right now to find qualified employees to fill open positions than it was a year ago; 11 percent went so far to say it's "a lot easier."

That's a little surprising, as small-business owners continue to report that finding qualified workers is a huge challenge. A May study of small businesses by the National Federation of Independent Business, a trade group representing 325,000 small and independent business owners across America, one third of small businesses have a job opening they can't fill, and nearly a quarter of all small-business owners claim that finding qualified workers is their single most important business problem. The April 2018 NFIB report revealed that while 57 percent of small businesses are hiring or planning to hire, 88 percent of them report difficulties finding qualified candidates.

So why are Disruptors having an easier time? One reason could be the fact that these fast growing, higher-profile companies are just more appealing to applicants than the average small business. In fact, three of this year's Disruptor 50 companies, and five now-public former Disruptors, appeared on LinkedIn's 2018 List of 50 Top Companies where professionals want to work.

It could point to an even more specific reason. A March 2017 study from PwC found a majority of women (and an almost

equal majority of them weigh the diversity of company leadership and workforce when they decide whether or not to work for an employer. So it might not be a coincidence that many of the Disruptor 50 companies that say it's easier or even "a lot easier" to find qualified employees — like Rent the Runway and Thinx — have female CEOs.

A recent Global Information Security Workforce study supports their findings, at least in the information technology sector: Its study claims that as many as 1.8 million IT jobs could be unfilled by 2022. That is 20 percent more than what the same study predicted two years earlier.

Rodney Williams, the CEO and co-founder of three-time disruptor Lisnr, this year at No. 22, has reaped the benefits of being a desired place to work, especially in Cincinnati, where Lisnr was founded.

"In Cincinnati we were able to attract the superstars," said Williams, speaking at CNBC's Disruptor 50 Roadshow event in Los Angeles last month. Still, he said, the company struggled to fill management positions. "We had a challenge finding talent that had done this before, who knew the nuances of ... taking a business to the next step." Lisnr has since set up shop in Oakland, California, where it's been able to tap the Silicon Valley talent pool.

Back in Los Angeles, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said the city's assortment of universities helps ensure that local tech entrepreneurs can find plenty of talent, but there's a dramatic hiring gap in other industries. "What keeps me up is not whether tech companies will have those workers, but closing the gap in other places." By this he means finding qualified workers in fields other than in tech.

"We have trade jobs. We have things at the port where 40 percent of the goods come into America. We want to make sure those high-paying jobs stay there for the future. Electrifying our trucks and our logistics fleet to reduce pollution. Those are the gaps I think that I want to fill in terms of skills, to be able to put people into community college and find those levels."

He added: "If we are going to build 40 years' worth of rapid transit lines, we can get those workers from other states. But we should be growing them here so they don't need a college degree to have a middle-class job as a laborer, electrician, a construction worker."

Nationwide, however, the information technology sector has the highest rate of job openings among all sectors of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department's most recent survey of Job Openings and Labor Turnover (also known as the JOLT Survey) reveals there were 178,000 open tech jobs in April, up more than 50 percent from April 2017.

So while some Disruptor 50 companies may have their pick of the best candidates, tech firms in general have increasingly more open positions, with increasingly fewer people available to fill them.

San Jose Mercury News

Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races

By: Paul Rogers

Most voters already know that Gavin Newsom and Dianne Feinstein — who easily advanced to the November general election in their races for governor and U.S. senator — were among the big winners in Tuesday's California primary election.

But there's another group also popping the champagne this week: environmentalists.

Across California and the Bay Area, environmental groups had one of their best elections ever. They won nearly every major race they contested, securing billions of dollars for parks, beaches, water projects and public transportation, and at the same time helped kill plans to develop Silicon Valley hillsides and a proposal to change the way the state spends money from its greenhouse gas auctions.

"People want open space and parks, they want clean air and clean water," said Deb Callahan, executive director of the Bay Area Open Space Council, a coalition of more than 50 parks agencies and land trusts. "And clearly people are willing to pay for it. There's an understanding that you need to invest in priorities."

The biggest victory statewide for conservation groups was the passage of Proposition 68, a \$4.1 billion parks and water bond that voters easily approved 56-44 percent.

The measure only passed in 27 of California's 58 counties, but it won by huge margins of 65 percent or more in most Bay Area counties and 61 percent in Los Angeles County, which easily offset "no" votes from the Central Valley and counties such as Riverside and San Bernardino, where it narrowly failed.

Proposition 68 is the first statewide funding measure for parks approved by California voters in 12 years, with about \$2.8 billion headed to parks and wildlife, and \$1.3 billion going to water and flood control projects, much of it to be handed out by the Legislature and state agencies through competitive grants.

Environmental groups donated \$6.4 million on the Yes on 68 campaign, with major funding coming from the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Save the Redwoods League and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Green groups faced opposition from taxpayer groups but no organized campaign against them. They spent heavily on social media, blanketed farmers markets, ran volunteer-driven phone banks and cultivated events with high-profile supporters such as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

They also secured endorsements from business groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Orange County Business Council.

The measure will mean millions for urban parks, soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, bike paths and public swimming pools — with a special emphasis on low-income urban areas. Also slated for funding are trails, beaches, forests, visitor centers and campgrounds at state and regional parks, and new funding for groundwater cleanup, flood control and drinking water treatment plants.

Although business groups regularly battle with environmentalists in other states, many in the Bay Area and Southern California are increasingly finding common ground, said Larry Gerston, a professor emeritus of political science at San Jose State University. That's because they see parks, recreation, clean air and clean water as a "quality of life" selling point to lure and keep talented workers, particularly in the face of high housing costs and traffic.

"There's a package," Gerston said. "It's salary, it's benefits, but it's also the weather and a better environment, and the ocean and parks."

Among the other big wins by environmental groups Tuesday:

- Proposition 72, a tax break for people who install rain barrels or other systems on their rooftops to conserve water, passed 84-16 percent.
- Proposition 70 went down in a landslide defeat, 64-36 percent. It would have allowed Republicans in Sacramento more of a say in how the state spends the money it generates from the "cap and trade" permits it auctions to oil refineries, factories and other large emitters of greenhouse gases. Environmentalists worried it would mean less money for public transit, solar rebates and other conservation measures.
- Measure B and C in San Jose. An attempt by developers to allow the construction of 910 senior housing units on vacant land in the city's Evergreen area, failed 58-42 percent. The measure was opposed by environmental groups who said it would transform 200 acres of hillsides into a wealthy gated community without environmental review. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who also opposed Measure B, led efforts to qualify Measure C, which makes it more difficult to develop open areas in Evergreen, Almaden Valley and Coyote Valley. It passed 60-40 percent.
- Regional Measure 3. A \$3 toll increase over the next six years at seven bridges that cross San Francisco Bay, but not the Golden Gate Bridge, to raise \$4.5 billion for transportation projects, won 54-46 percent. The measure was backed by business groups but also had the support of Save the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenbelt Alliance and the League of Conservation Voters. Although it funds freeway improvements, it also will expand BART, Caltrain, ferry service, buses and bike lanes. "We've got to reduce our reliance on cars to cut greenhouse emissions and roadway runoff pollution to the bay," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.
- Measure C in Napa County, which would limit the number of oak trees that vineyard owners can cut down on hillsides, narrowly led Friday night 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent, despite farmers and the wine industry heavily outspending conservation groups.
- In Davis, Measure H, which renewed a \$49 annual parcel tax for parks, bike paths, swimming pools and street trees for another 20 years, was approved 73-28 percent.
- In Santa Cruz, 76 percent of voters approved Measure U, an advisory measure that opposes recently announced plans by UC-Santa Cruz to expand campus enrollment by 10,000 students to 28,000 by 2040.
- In Martinez, Measure I, which requires voter approval to develop areas zoned for open space or parks, led late Friday, but by tiny margin more than Measure F, which requires voter approval for such changes but only on publicly owned land. Measure I had 51.37 percent and Measure F had 50.87 percent of the vote, yet thousands of mail-in ballots in Contra Costa County remain to be counted, so the results could change. The measure with the most votes will prevail if both pass.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

1 message

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Fri, May 18, 2018 at 6:59 AM

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LA Times

Koreatown needs a homeless shelter. It also needs city officials to learn from the mistakes of the past

By: Joon Bang

"Dowajuseyo." In Korean, it means "help me."

A few months ago, I received a call from an L.A. County mental health facility. They had just taken a frail Korean grandmother into their care, and officials couldn't figure out what to do with her. In her 70s, with a full head of gray hair, the woman probably weighed no more than 85 pounds and had been living on the streets after being evicted from her Koreatown home. She was afraid to be alone in a facility with people who were unable to communicate with her and wanted to be released.

As executive director of the Korean American Coalition, I often find myself in this somewhat fraught position — a bridge between the limited-English-speaking Korean immigrant community and the service providers who have the resources to help them. I spoke with the grandmother's family, who told me that their financial hardship made their grandmother's mental illness difficult to manage on their own. I tried again and again to broker some kind of arrangement. Ultimately, we were unable to find a solution. The grandmother was released to the streets. She's currently among a growing number of Korean American seniors who are experiencing homelessness.

Koreatown is changing.

The area has long been a symbol for the Korean American and immigrant story. It is a place of identity and pride for a community that believes in hard work and sacrifice. But in just the past two years, the city of Los Angeles has approved over 50 new Koreatown development projects — the majority of them hotels and luxury rentals — in what is the densest and arguably the most socioeconomically diverse community in all of California. Though you don't hear much about it, homelessness is increasing at a rapid rate. I've heard stories of a hidden Korean American homeless community that uses 24-hour spas to stay off the streets and sleeps in the pews of local churches.

In 2017, in an effort to figure out just how widespread this problem is, our organization filmed a documentary called "Invisible Neighbors" on the topic. The results were disturbing enough that, this year, we partnered with homelessness experts from the United Way, EPATH, Homeless Health Care, Rand and USC, as well as representatives from L.A. City Council District 10. Our goal was to develop a process to count the invisible ethnic Korean homeless population, identify the causes of its spread and brainstorm possible solutions to the growing issue.

After three months of preparation, this effort was scheduled to launch in May. But everything came to a halt when L.A. announced plans to build a new homeless shelter in Koreatown. It caught everyone off guard, especially longtime residents and small shop owners who were unaware and uninformed of the plan to put a shelter in the heart of Koreatown's economic corridor, where many business owners are quietly experiencing a financial downturn.

After speaking with various members of the community, I feel confident saying the protests occurred not because we don't want temporary or supportive housing for those struggling with homelessness. These protests were a direct response to being left out of the process — unable to ask questions and work together with the city to find the best location.

There's also a deeper context here. For many Koreatown residents, a deep sense of distrust of local government exists.

One which stems back to the 1992 L.A. riots, when the Koreatown community was abandoned and left to fend for itself. Over 1,700 businesses were destroyed, leaving residents and small businesses to pick up the pieces and rebuild on their own. Koreatown may look like a hip place to eat and play, but for many, it remains a symbol of the difficult Korean American journey.

City officials have since acknowledged their community outreach should have been better. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson are working with community leaders to educate the public on the details of the project and address concerns.

That's important, because the truth is that more and more Korean Americans and Koreatown residents need access to homeless services — and this is an opportunity to get them that help.

At first glance, the appearance of a homeless shelter may seem like a threat to our identity and culture of hard work and resilience. But the reality is that our community is changing — and has been for some time. Be it the high cost of living, lack of affordable housing, a rapidly growing elderly population or threats to immigration status, Korean Americans are indeed amongst the homeless. We have a responsibility to take care of them.

Wherever a shelter ends up being located, we must ensure it delivers on its promises — not only for the community, but, more importantly, for the sake of those who will be sleeping there.

"Dowajuseyo." Help me.

As Angelenos, we need to step up together and answer the call.

LA Times

A closer look at the three finalists for LAPD chief

By: Cindy Chang and James Queally

As young cops, the three finalists for chief of the Los Angeles Police Department were taught a harsh style of policing that emphasized crackdowns and arrests.

They have since disavowed that strategy, rising through the ranks of a department that has recast itself as a kinder, gentler LAPD. All three use similar catchphrases: building ties with residents, investing in youth sports and academic programs, assuring immigrants that the LAPD wants to help them, not deport them.

But for the official making the selection, Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is considering a run for president, each of the veteran cops brings political benefits.

Robert Arcos would be the first Latino police chief of a city that is nearly 50% Latino. Bill Scott, who left the LAPD to lead the troubled San Francisco Police Department, is African American and a familiar face in South Los Angeles.

Michel Moore, whose father was a Basque immigrant, was already in the top echelons of the LAPD when the other two candidates were appointed to their first station commands. LAPD insiders say his breadth of experience and mastery of subjects from crime statistics to budgets are second to none.

Arcos has the backing of some powerful Latino politicians, while a coalition of African American pastors and community activists is supporting Scott.

Garcetti received the names of the three finalists, chosen by the city's civilian Police Commission from a field of 31 applicants, on May 4. He has said that he expects to pick the new chief by the end of the month, if not sooner — well in advance of Chief Charlie Beck's June 27 retirement. The City Council will then vote on Garcetti's choice.

In selecting three men with decades of experience in the LAPD, the commission signaled its desire to stay the course set by Beck and his predecessor, William Bratton, who remade the department under a federal consent decree. Among the challenges the new chief will face: how to improve relationships with some black and Latino residents, who are critical of fatal police shootings and complain about bearing the brunt of the LAPD's enforcement operations.

Garcetti has said he wants to choose the best leader and is not aiming for a demographic first. Several City Council members had indicated that it was time for the leader of one of the largest police departments in the country to be a woman. But former Assistant Chief Sandy Jo MacArthur, who was among five candidates interviewed by the commission, did not make the final three.

"It's a nice, diverse pool, with the exception of no female," said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. "It reflects L.A., and it reflects the new LAPD."

Arcos, 57, moved to L.A. from Texas with his mother and four younger siblings when he was 10. The family eventually settled in Atwater Village, then a working-class, mostly minority community where young men faced pressure to join gangs. His mother struggled financially, sometimes relying on food stamps.

Later, as a sergeant at the station that polices his old neighborhood, Arcos ran into childhood friends who had been arrested by his colleagues.

"My story is very similar to many of the kids in underserved communities," Arcos said. "That gives me a connection and empathy to realize where people are when they're at their most vulnerable and low."

Scott Kroeber was the captain of the elite Metropolitan Division in 2005, when Arcos came in as a lieutenant charged with implementing changes recommended by top brass.

Kroeber remembers Arcos as a "people-oriented" manager who cared so much about his police officers that he would agonize over what degree of discipline to give them. As an outsider to Metro's insular culture, Arcos did not force the changes down officers' throats and gradually won them over.

"He's that rare individual who strikes the happy medium — we need to go there, and let's bring people along to do it willingly," said Kroeber, who retired in 2013.

After his Metro assignment, Arcos made captain, serving as second-in-command at Olympic Division and then the officer in charge at 77th. Beck promoted him quickly to commander. He worked at administrative services and Central Bureau before taking charge of Central in 2016 as a deputy chief.

At Central, which includes downtown and Northeast L.A., Arcos often manages large street demonstrations. The area is also the epicenter of L.A.'s worsening homelessness crisis.

As chief, Arcos said, he would enhance the department's de-escalation training so officers make different choices in a situation where "you can shoot, but should you?"

"It's time for another cultural shift," Arcos said. "Our policies have to reflect the community's values."

Arcos is a third-generation Mexican American who understands some Spanish but does not speak it fluently.

At a time when "the Trump administration has declared war on our immigrant communities," Arcos is a "once in a lifetime" leader who has "challenged the status quo and embraced modern, non-traditional policing," City Councilman Gil Cedillo wrote in an endorsement letter to Garcetti, which was also signed by former council members Gloria Molina, Richard Alatorre, Mike Hernandez and Ed Reyes.

In 2006, while Arcos was a lieutenant in Metro, his daughter Chelsea killed two people in a drunk driving accident on the 5 Freeway. The LAPD launched an Internal Affairs investigation into an allegation that Arcos asked the probation department to alter a report in his daughter's favor. The investigation eventually cleared Arcos, and he denies wrongdoing.

David Pokorny, the lead California Highway Patrol investigator in the case, said he has no proof that Arcos put pressure on the probation department. But in an interview with The Times last week, he called the Internal Affairs investigation a "massive coverup." Pokorny, who is now retired, said that investigators never interviewed him, even though he was central to the case.

After Pokorny warned Chelsea Arcos' attorney that the probation report was flawed, the attorney never presented it in court, Pokorny told The Times.

Chelsea Arcos was convicted of two counts of vehicular manslaughter, among other crimes, and sentenced to seven years in prison.

"I never tried to mitigate it, minimize it or excuse it," Robert Arcos said of his daughter's actions. "She got what she deserved."

In 2015, after her release from prison, Chelsea Arcos pleaded no contest to driving under the influence in another incident and was sentenced to an alcohol treatment program and 60 days in jail. Her previous convictions could not legally be used to upgrade the charge from a misdemeanor to a felony, said a spokeswoman from the L.A. County District Attorney's Office.

The other driver, who was not seriously hurt, filed a lawsuit in January that includes Robert Arcos and his wife as defendants and alleges Arcos used his position to get his daughter a light sentence.

Arcos' attorney has moved to dismiss the case, arguing that the parents are not legally liable for their daughter's actions.

"I had nothing to do with it. I had no influence. She's an adult," Arcos said.

Arcos and his wife have spoken at high schools about their daughter's experience. At the LAPD, Arco has warned police officers who have gotten DUIs about the devastating consequences of drinking and driving.

"I never want anybody to experience this, as a parent, a sibling, a close friend, ever," he said.

Michel Moore

Moore, 57, was among the finalists for LAPD chief in 2009. The Police Commission ranked him highest of the three, but Beck got the job. Moore has made no secret about his desire to lead a police department and was recently a finalist for the top jobs in Dallas and San Diego.

As a boy growing up with six siblings, Moore moved constantly while his parents looked for work. He remembers a Christmas night in Flint, Mich., when officials came to repossess the family station wagon. In Arkansas, his stepfather suggested that he stop using his Basque last name, Sanchotena, because of the racial prejudice there. He has been Michel Moore ever since, with "Michel" pronounced like "Michael."

Moore, who is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, said he identifies as the son of an immigrant and views policing through that lens. Otherwise, he said, he is "one of billions."

As a young police officer, Moore pulled the trigger in two fatal shootings. At that point, he said, he was happy to join the department's DARE program and teach kids about the dangers of drugs. Later, as a sergeant, Moore got his first taste of the wonky data crunching he would become known for, creating the department's first automated crime-mapping system.

After stints in internal affairs, Wilshire Division and vice, he was tapped to lead Rampart Division in 1998, the day after Rafael Perez was arrested in a corruption scandal that came to define the department. Officers in Rampart thought Perez was wrongly accused, Moore said. As a newly minted captain, he had to persuade them to abandon the "Rampart way" and start doing things the LAPD way.

Under Bratton, Moore was deputy chief of West Bureau and then Valley Bureau. In 2010, Beck promoted him to assistant chief — a rung below chief. He rotated through special operations, which includes detectives, counterterrorism and SWAT; administrative services, including the behind-the-scenes realms of budget, personnel and training; and his current position, patrol operations.

Moore is by all accounts a demanding boss who expects his subordinates to be as versed in every detail as he is. Whether you view Moore as a driven leader or a micromanager depends on whether you are ready to rise to his level, said Capt. Jay Roberts, who was Moore's adjutant.

"He taught me about juggling 1,600 balls at the same time," Roberts said. "I was kept on my toes for three years — he held me accountable."

At the LAPD's weekly Compstat meetings, Moore asks detailed questions of station captains but does not humiliate them. He emails the topics he will cover — whether robberies, burglaries or auto thefts — to the captains in advance. He said he wants to work with them to find solutions to seemingly impossible problems.

"As a former captain, I have an appreciation for the pressures and challenges they're under," Moore said. "I've seen other people putting on Compstat ... and embarrassing the hell out of the captains."

Moore has been at the forefront of the LAPD's efforts to reduce fatal shootings by encouraging officers to use Tasers and beanbag shotguns. He recently proposed a system to quantify positive community interactions such as public meetings and roll calls held on city streets.

"It's not just enforcement — crime suppression, getting guns off the street," Moore said. "It's engagement — being in church pews, working foot beats."

Moore, who lives in Santa Clarita, said he will move to L.A. if he becomes chief.

"To represent a city of 4 million, I think it speaks to being fully vested in the outcomes of what happens in the city," he said.

The Political Action Committee of the Mexican American Bar Assn. has endorsed Moore as the most qualified candidate for police chief.

"The City of Los Angeles is made up of many diverse communities and Assistant Chief Moore has the knowledge, background, and expertise that is superior to any other candidate in working with all minority groups," Felipe Plascencia, the group's president, wrote in a letter to Garcetti.

A similarly named but unrelated group, the Mexican American Bar Assn., is supporting Arcos.

Bill Scott

Scott was raised in a military family, eventually settling in Birmingham, Ala. Some of his relatives who were active in the civil rights movement were sprayed with fire hoses and attacked by police dogs, he said in a 2015 interview with The Times. He kept that historical perspective in mind during his 27 years at the LAPD, particularly when managing volatile relationships between the police and the community in South L.A.

"You cannot say, 'Forget it,'" Scott said. "An 82-year-old African American man grew up in a place where they had to live through some of the things that were happening 50 years ago. They aren't going to forget that, and neither should we."

When homicides skyrocketed in South L.A. in the beginning of 2016, Scott was among the architects of a command center that deployed Metropolitan Division officers to crime hot spots. On many nights, the officers were charged with stopping drivers who had committed traffic violations and then seeing if there was a legal reason to search for drugs or weapons.

That approach, coupled with cooperation from gang intervention workers to stop retaliatory killings, was necessary to reduce the violence, Scott said in a September 2016 interview with The Times, when he was deputy chief of South Bureau. But he also articulated the long-term cost of locking people up.

"If you are an 8-year-old depending on your father to provide for you, and now you see your father going away in handcuffs, who are you going to be mad at? Your father or the police officer who took him away?" he said.

When Scott left for San Francisco at the end of 2016, Beck praised his "tactical skills, intelligence and kindness."

Scott is trying to turn around a department reeling from a racist text message scandal and the controversial police killing of a black man named Mario Woods.

Shortly before Scott's arrival, the U.S. Department of Justice had released a study showing that San Francisco police disproportionately used force against minorities, also stopping and searching them more frequently than whites. Scott is working to implement reforms recommended by the Department of Justice and has pushed to arm all his officers with Tasers.

The San Francisco Police Department has about 2,000 officers, compared with 10,000 at the LAPD.

John Burris, a Bay Area civil rights attorney who represented Woods' relatives, said Scott has an open mind on officer discipline and has sometimes tussled with the city's combative police union.

"He came to meetings early and did not, like other chiefs in the past, automatically assume the police's position," Burris said.

Roberts, the LAPD captain, described Scott as measured and low-key, with a management style that emphasizes collaboration.

"He holds you accountable but in a very friendly way — smiling, laughing, with humor built in," Roberts said. "His strength is that people don't have their guard up when they enter the room. He's able to bridge gaps."

At a news conference earlier this week, some African American community leaders said they were supporting Scott not because of his race but because he can connect with South L.A. residents and understand their uneasy relationship with the LAPD.

"No one knows South L.A. like Bill Scott does," said Najee Ali, president of Project Islamic HOPE. "We want Chief Scott to come back home to his city and his community, because the city needs him and South L.A. needs him."

Departing from recent precedent, Garcetti did not initially release the list of three finalists, citing respect for their confidentiality, but the names were reported by The Times using sources with knowledge of the process. The secrecy was

seen by some observers as an attempt to protect Scott from a backlash in San Francisco. Scott has deflected questions about whether he applied for the job and has not responded to The Times' requests for an interview.

"I'm a man of my word, first and foremost," Scott told ABC7 San Francisco the day his appointment as chief was announced. "My intent is to be here as long as the city and the citizens and people will have me here, and to get the job done."

But with Beck's retirement and the death of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who appointed him, Scott's ambitions turned back to Los Angeles.

LA Times

L.A. transit officials consider Metro-owned sites in Valley, Venice to aid homeless

By: Laura J. Nelson

Los Angeles County transportation officials have identified five properties, including parking lots in the San Fernando Valley and a former bus yard in Venice Beach, that could be used to provide services or temporary housing for Los Angeles County's growing homeless population.

The properties, owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, are either vacant or underused, officials said. It is unclear what services would be provided at the sites or how Metro would address public health, safety and liability concerns.

The list of proposed properties was assembled for Metro's directors, who have pushed to expand the agency's role in addressing the county's homelessness crisis. Riders' negative perceptions of safety and cleanliness on the system are leading reasons behind a decline in ridership, officials have said.

"This is an unprecedented crisis in Los Angeles, and we all — all levels of government, all neighborhoods — need to be treating this as if it were a natural disaster," said Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, the chair of Metro's customer experience committee, during a downtown meeting Thursday.

Similar efforts are underway in the city of Los Angeles, where Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is pursuing a \$20-million initiative to build temporary homeless shelters on city-owned parking lots. The first proposed facility, a 65-bed shelter near Wilshire Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, has sparked an outcry from Koreatown residents.

Metro is a major county landowner, with a portfolio that includes dozens of train stations, parking lots and bus yards, as well as parcels adjacent to rail lines that were acquired during construction.

The agency's real estate staff identified 40 possible properties, then eliminated sites slated for construction or development within 18 months. The agency also ruled out heavily used park-and-ride lots as well as sites that are "isolated" and removed from transit and social services, Metro Deputy Executive Officer John Potts said.

Commuters rarely fill the park-and-ride lots at the Orange Line busway stations in Van Nuys, Tarzana and Canoga Park, which would be prime candidates for homeless services, Metro said. The lots are adjacent to the Orange Line bike path, where Valley residents have frequently complained of homeless encampments.

A former bus yard in Venice Beach that closed in 2015 is also on the list. The 3.15-acre lot on Sunset Avenue is three blocks from the Pacific Ocean and a short walk from Abbot Kinney Boulevard, where homes sell for more than \$3 million.

Metro closed the bus facility after fielding multiple offers from buyers who wanted to develop the site, but no deal is expected within a year and a half. The building that formerly housed the bus yard's facilities would require some environmental remediation before people could work inside, Potts said.

The final site runs along San Fernando Road in northeast Los Angeles, sandwiched between the street and Metrolink tracks. A trucking company recently terminated its lease there for cab parking, freeing up 34,000 square feet that could be used for overnight parking for people living in cars and camper vans.

Metro's directors took no steps Thursday to move forward with the homeless services plan, and they raised a number of questions about how Metro would provide and fund the programs. They also questioned how long services that are described as "temporary" could be provided.

The hope, Potts said, is that Metro will hire an outside service provider and draft a contract with a "firewall" that protects the agency from any public safety, security and liability concerns.

All five sites are in the city of Los Angeles, and elected officials and their constituents should be notified, said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. She also raised questions about how a safe overnight parking program would work.

Directors did not mention mobile showers or bathrooms, a service that Garcetti previously described as "very appropriate for land near Metro stations. The vast majority of the rail and bus system has no bathroom access, because officials have traditionally said the facilities could be magnets for drug use and prostitution.

The city of L.A. operates a hygiene trailer with showers and laundry machines in a city-owned parking lot on skid row. Security officers and a maintenance crew monitor the facility, and people who come in can speak with a homeless outreach worker.

Metro directors also supported a proposal to expand Metro's homeless outreach program, which began a year ago.

Currently, two teams of outreach workers walk through subway stations and ride trains on weekday mornings and afternoons, helping people find housing and other services. The expanded program would provide six more outreach teams, including workers who would ride the system on Saturdays, Sundays and overnight.

One team of outreach workers would be assigned exclusively to L.A.'s all-night buses, which carry so many sleeping homeless people that riders sometimes call them "rolling motels."

The expansion, which still needs a full Metro board vote, would increase the annual cost of the program from \$1.2 million to \$4.2 million.

USA Today

In the second Gilded Age, the mansions get bigger, and the homeless get closer

By: Rick Hampson

LOS ANGELES — When she became president of the Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association, Robin Greenberg wanted to do something for people who couldn't afford any home, much less one like hers in the golden hills of Bel Air.

So every month for eight years, she and colleagues went to Skid Row or elsewhere downtown to feed the homeless.

Then, last December, she learned the homeless had come to her.

Before dawn on Dec. 6 a wildfire raced out of a parched ravine in Bel Air, scorching 422 acres, destroying or damaging 18 homes and forcing the evacuation of about 700 others — including Robin Greenberg's.

Even more shocking than the fire's damage was its cause: a portable stove at a homeless encampment right there in Bel Air.

The wildfire is an instructive tale of America's second Gilded Age, a time when the kinds of excesses and extremes that once seemed to have been consigned to U.S. history have come roaring back.

In this Gilded Age, like the one at the end of the 19th Century, the gap between rich and poor is widening; monopolies have more power over business, business has more power over politics and politics are close-fought and hyper-partisan. The pace of change — technological, cultural, social — is dizzying.

In his presidential campaign, Donald Trump simultaneously evoked two Gilded Age types, the plutocrat and the populist. "Trump is the perfect figure for the new Gilded Age. He's like something out of Mark Twain" (who coined the term "Gilded Age" in 1873), says David Nasaw, a biographer of Gilded Age industrialist Andrew Carnegie. "Exaggeration is his essence."

The most striking feature shared by the two Gilded Ages is growing economic inequality. In the 19th Century, the juxtaposition of squalor and splendor shocked a rural nation that was moving to the city; today, it haunts a nation that can remember the relative equality of the Depression, World War II and the long post-war period.

Nowhere is this inequality more apparent than Los Angeles, where hundreds of encampments have sprung up on beaches, in riverbeds and in canyons as the homeless population has exploded and expanded beyond its old boundaries.

The homeless camp where the December wildfire started was only a mile from a new hilltop mansion twice the size of the White House that's for sale for \$500 million. It destroyed the \$5.5 million house of former NBA star Andrei Kirilenko, singed some vines at Rupert Murdoch's Moraga winery and forced celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Chelsea Handler to flee.

A sign of the apocalypse? Or just bad karma?

"I'm not a fire-and-brimstone, end-of-the-world kind of guy," says Bert Muto, a formerly homeless man who saw a fire at another homeless camp threaten multimillion-dollar houses. "But the Biblical stuff is a reminder of what it feels like today.

where's it gonna stop:

Build no small mansions

CHAPTER 1

The Gilded Age began about a decade after the end of the Civil War and ended around 1901, when President William McKinley was assassinated and reformer Teddy Roosevelt took office.

It was an era of robber barons such as Rockefeller, Carnegie and Vanderbilt; of state legislatures (which at the time elected U.S. senators) controlled by railroads and other special interests; of giant industrial monopolies known as "trusts;" of financial crises, including the panics of 1873, 1893 and 1907; and of a populist reaction against all of the above.

Tycoons built 70-room marble oceanfront "cottages" that they occupied for only four to eight weeks a year. A New York couple spent \$400,000 — more than \$9 million today — to throw a costume ball at the Waldorf Hotel. Sociologist Thorstein Veblen termed the phenomenon "conspicuous consumption."

The city that epitomized the first Gilded Age was New York, site of the greatest houses, most glittering social events and the mightiest banks. It was home to the social elite — the so-called Four Hundred (the number that could fit into Mrs. Astor's ballroom). Its slums, with names like Bandit's Roost and Misery Row, were the subject of Jacob Riis' book *How the Other Half Lives*.

But the capital of America's second Gilded Age is Los Angeles, where hilltop homes worth tens of millions of dollars look out over a city in which even the middle class struggles to afford shelter and the number of homeless increases daily. The city's famed sprawl cannot isolate Angelinos from disorienting contrasts many Americans assumed had disappeared after reforms of the Progressive Era, the New Deal and the Great Society.

The heart of Gilded Age Los Angeles is Bel Air, a community of curving lanes and hillside mansions where a Hollywood legend lurks behind every hedge and gate.

One may purchase "gigamansions" with names such as *The One*, (\$500 million); *Chartwell*, the setting for *The Beverly Hillbillies* TV show (\$295 million); *Billionaire*, with an ornamental helicopter on the roof (\$188 million, down from \$250 million); and *The Manor*, once home of producer Aaron Spelling (\$200 million).

(These prices are more aspirational than rational; the \$110 million for which Hard Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton's Malibu home sold last month broke the L.A. record of \$100 million set two years ago by the *Playboy Mansion* and another house.)

In Bel Air, a house is really considered a mansion only if it's 30,000 square feet — 12 times as large as the average American single family house.

As a result, many of Bel Air's steep, narrow lanes are construction zones. "There's a saying here," says Jeff Hyland, head of the city's leading high-end real estate agency. "If the house is 10 years old, it's a candidate for a remodel. If it's 20 years old, it's a candidate for a tear down."

Ready to party

CHAPTER 2

Once, the rich built their own dream houses. In the second Gilded Age, however, developers such as Nile Niami, a former B-movie producer, will do it for them.

Niami is the builder of *The One*, the *USS Enterprise* of the new class of spec houses. It sits on a 4-acre hilltop lot with 360-degree views, including the downtown skyline and the Pacific.

The One has 20 bedrooms, seven pools (including a moat) and five elevators. It has a nightclub, casino, flower room, spa, gym, beauty salon, 45-seat theater, four-lane bowling alley and a four-oven commercial kitchen. There is a lounge whose walls are glass tanks filled with iridescent jellyfish. There is parking for 30 vehicles.

The master bedroom suite — 5,500 square feet, more than twice the average house — has its own office, kitchen and pool.

If *The One* were to sell for even a third of its asking price after it's finished next year, it still would set a U.S. record by about \$30 million.

no one needs such houses, so buyers must be made to want them by creating what Miami's architect, Paul McClean, calls "an emotional connection." Hence, amenities: swings suspended from the ceiling, or a jellyfish room.

And buyers who want such a place want it now, not in the three to four years it takes to build one. So many are sold in move-in condition — completely furnished, decorated and supplied, down to the champagne.

"All the decisions have been made for you. The lifestyle is there for you," McClean says. "All you have to do is move in." As Miami puts it, "The day they buy it, they're ready to have a party."

The market is global. The world has more than 1,500 billionaires, only a third of whom are Americans. Hyland, an expert on Bel Air's history as well as its real estate, says The Four Hundred of the first Gilded Age is now The Four Thousand.

None of Miami's potential buyers seeks a primary or full-time residence. Most already have five or six homes. So The One, like other giga-mansions, will be a pied-à-terre or a place to entertain and impress.

In a metro area with 58,000 homeless, The One will be empty much of the time.

Its isolated hillside perch and skyline views provide an escape from such vertiginous contradictions. McClean, the architect, talks about how his houses separate their occupants from the "day-to-day life of the city."

They also break down the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Trading on the benign climate, McClean skillfully uses glass walls and doors to create a sense of being outside when you're inside. The ironic result is housing for the rich that seems to disappear even as, for the poor, it actually is disappearing.

Lifestyles of the poor and famous

CHAPTER 3

The homelessness issue has achieved a special distinction in Los Angeles. Having increased 50% during the past five years, "it's supplanted traffic as the topic everyone talks about," says Tom Waldman, spokesman for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The homeless are as visible as the Hollywood sign. More than two years after Mayor **Eric Garcetti** declared a "state of emergency," about 41,000 are "unsheltered" — sleeping in cars, outside City Hall, under freeway overpasses. The Los Angeles Times calls it "a human tragedy of extraordinary proportions."

The homeless are blamed for everything from declining ridership on the Metro mass transit system — nearly three in 10 riders said they stopped riding because they felt unsafe — to last year's hepatitis A outbreak. Of 36 cases, 16 were among homeless people.

The city gets about 1,900 requests a month to clean up or remove homeless encampments, nearly three times more than two years ago.

Increasingly desperate officials have designated lots where people who live in their cars can legally park for the night and made 1,400 bins available to the homeless to store their belongings. There are plans to lodge people in trailers on city property.

The ranks of the homeless have been swelled by military veterans, young people emerging from foster homes, refugees from domestic abuse and inmates released under an initiative that made it easier to parole non-violent offenders. About three in 10 homeless people are mentally ill, and two in 10 are addicts.

Housing is too expensive. In California, eight in 10 homes for sale are not affordable on a public school teacher's salary.

Seeds of change

CHAPTER 4

Almost six months after the Bel Air wildfire, in the neighborhood that was evacuated, there's talk of helping the homeless, and of keeping them out.

Robin Greenberg says the homeless won't resettle in the canyons and instead will stay closer to services. She plans to keep going to Skid Row to help: "I like interacting with them. I like it when people say, 'Thank you.' I've brought my grandchildren."

But another longtime resident, Nickie Miner, says that in an arid landscape subject to high winds, homeless camps are a

threat to public safety. And she says some of the homeless don't want help. They want to be survivalists, and they want to do it in our hills." Residents have been going on a social networking site to report homeless sightings. A man was seen walking in the street near traffic, apparently "off his meds." One resident has raised the possibility of deploying a drone to spy on potential camp sites.

The extremes of the Gilded Age were moderated in the Progressive Era that followed. But the seeds of reform — the income tax, antitrust laws, limits on working hours and child labor — were planted in the Gilded Age.

Such seeds may be there today, if we look for them.

Consider the experience of Bel Air's similarly affluent neighbor to the west, Pacific Palisades.

In November 2015, a man in a homeless encampment, using a lit paper bag as a flashlight, started a fire that endangered several homes. Police ejected all the homeless, including Victor Jimenez, who'd lost his home after losing his job as a videographer at a law firm.

But a Pacific Palisades residents' committee privately raised \$125,000 to hire two social workers to connect the homeless — defined by the committee as Palisades "residents" if they'd been in town for six months — with housing and services.

One worker helped Jimenez, 49, get a job and an apartment downtown. He's grateful but under no illusions about what prompted it: "After the fire, the money was there."

Which may be what it takes.

Homelessness has been a sort of conflagration for greater Los Angeles, which also happens to be where the national taxpayer revolt began four decades ago, with Howard Jarvis and Proposition 13.

And yet in 2016 voters approved a \$1.2 billion city bond to build supported housing for the homeless. And last year they passed a county sales tax to fund homeless services.

On the scorched hillsides of Bel Air, the flowers known as "fire followers" are beginning to bloom.

The Hill

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right

By: Mary Plotkin

One issue which never seems to rise to any degree of national visibility is residential housing.

Yes, during local campaigns, you hear much talk about the "homeless crisis" and the need for "affordable housing." But these topics are almost never mentioned or brought up in a presidential campaign or even a U.S. Senate contest.

These supposed "local" matters, for some inexplicable reason, are deemed not "serious" enough for a national discussion.

This makes no sense. A roof over your head should be considered a national necessity. After having enough food to survive, what else could be so important?

On Sunday, The New York Times wrote a story on housing with the subtitle, "The nation's housing policy for the poor may feel like a lottery. Sometimes it is." The story, written by Emily Badger and Jim Wilson, chronicles the hopes of various individuals and families whose only desire is to have a decent and affordable place to live. It forcefully makes the point that the homeowners have a great deal while renters get the shaft. As the piece so starkly says, "the mortgage interest deduction is available to anyone who asks for it. ... For poor renters, there is never enough housing assistance to go around."

The federal government, when it comes to low-income renters, plays a very small role. Yes, there is public housing and vouchers, but that in no way approaches solving the problem or improving the situation.

Kate Hartley, director of San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, is quoted in the Times article. She sums it up with these clear words: "This country does have a national housing policy, and that is that we provide our greatest subsidies to relatively affluent, housed people."

It is pointed out in the article that "homeowners get the mortgage interest deduction, which has cost the government more than these programs for the poor combined."

So, housing policy by default becomes poor renters winning in a housing lottery.

Mark McCrory, a professor of urban planning at the University of Kansas, states that "these last-hope lotteries are a manifestation of the tragic reality ... (that) we have never in America made affordable housing a right."

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right. (Just as health insurance for everyone should be.) I know, that smacks of socialism. Call it what you want. But I make no apologies for wanting to live in a country where having a roof over your head and health insurance is a right, and funding it is a priority.

Some things can rightly be labeled as necessities. Why is it too much to ask the U.S. Congress and this president to face up to the fact that far too many individuals and families are consumed with worry and anxiety about how they are to pay next month's rent.

Rent subsidies and vouchers must be vastly expanded and increased.

To fund this program, institute the Tobin tax, in which every stock transaction is taxed, and put those billions of dollars into a true housing program for the non-well-off, so they can have housing.

We as a nation have become inured to "the homeless." It is a tragic, terrible plight that those who are working have to constantly worry that they won't have a place to call home.

This crisis can be solved. But, first, there must be recognition that the crisis exists.

Why is no U.S. senator given the title the "Affordable Housing Senator?" Why, during U.S. Senate debates, is not one question asked about housing? Why, during the presidential primary season, is the subject never ever mentioned, let alone debated?

Len Simon, head of Simon & Co., a Washington, D.C., company that provides expert advice to city government, does offer a ray of hope. He perceptively points out that two former mayors — John Hickenlooper of Denver, now governor of Colorado, and Mitchell Landrieu of New Orleans — and present mayors **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles and Bill de Blasio of New York City, are on the 2020 list of possible Democratic presidential candidates. One or all of them will surely bring up and, more importantly, advocate for the issue.

One could, perhaps, add a prominent senator and former mayor, Cory Booker of Newark.

It's time that this essential necessity be brought up and discussed, and plans made to rectify it. The unmentionable subject is too important to be relegated to academic journals and local campaigns. It needs to be an integral part of the political life of this nation.

Far too many people are hurting because elected officeholders refuse to pay attention and come up with remedies. The issue of housing cannot be ignored.

This indifference is dangerous to so many.

City Watch

Koreatown Roars in Protest, Demands Public Hearings

By: Grace Yoo

K'TOWN ON ALERT-Koreatown came out ROARING in PROTEST against City Council President Herb Wesson and Mayor **Garcetti's** glib attitude in coming out to Koreatown and announcing that the Temporary Homeless Shelter will be located at [682 S. Vermont](#) -- the northern portion of CD 10 that is represented by Wesson.

As background, this came after Mayor Garcetti shared in his 2018 State of the City address that "every single member" on the 15-member City Council pledged to create a "minimum of 222 new units in neighborhoods across LA." The Mayor even acknowledged in his speech that Council President Herb Wesson would lead the way by stepping up to announce the site.

After the Mayor and Council President's press conference to share the good news about "A Bridge Home," another fantastic concept and name given for the Temporary Homeless Shelters that will be built around the City in each and every council district (per the Mayor), the K'town response most likely shocked and alarmed both men.

Literally, a GRASSROOTS movement occurred overnight -- well maybe over a few days -- with multiple social media sites and websites, [change.org](#), and mom's groups concerned about the idea of a temporary homeless shelter. There was either a lack of information or false information given to the Ktown community residents and stakeholders.

Some folks were told that this shelter would be affordable housing units; others were told it was going to be a tent-like structure; some thought a building was going to go up. The City did a horrible job of informing the Ktown community of what was going on. And this is just the beginning because as other council members across the City identify the

temporary homeless shelter locations, other neighborhoods and communities are being blind-sided. And let's not forget that the City is asking the community to wait to find out about what types of services will be provided for the homeless; it's only letting it be known that these would be welcoming spaces – open 24 hours, with no restrictions, including no sobriety requirement to stay at the shelters.

"A Bridge Home" sounds like a good start. We live in LA and we know that there is a homelessness crisis. We see it, we hear it, we feel it and know by other senses, too. What is the City afraid of? Why not allow public hearings? I don't mean another repeat of the 2012 Redistricting Hearings, which put on a great show, with dozens of hearings held throughout the City, requesting input from residents. Yet, when it came down to voting, the input from the community was not considered. How do I know this? Because of the 21 Redistricting Commissioners, not a single one – yes, not ONE COMMISSIONER -- was given all the data that had been collected over dozens of hearings. In fact, they purposely split the 21 Commissioners into three separate groups, so that it was impossible for each commissioner to see or hear input from the various communities throughout the City.

We live in America, not Russia, so how is it that community members are not informed? If you watch the video linked here, you hear Wesson telling the media on camera, "No, no, no, that is there is NOT going to be a public hearing where it relates to this, we are going to put a temporary facility here..." This is the treatment we get in Ktown. I have seen Wesson when he wants to impress and be polite. He's more than cordial. But we in Ktown often get treated like second class citizens. As you can see from the grassroots uproar, this disparate treatment will not be tolerated.

Let's not forget what happens when we rush into things that were supposedly great ideas supported by Wesson and Garcetti...like the half-aked concept of RecycLA which has caused complaints in the tens of thousands, costing some folks an increase of 400% for trash hauling fees. Even Wesson admits that RecycLA was not well-implemented.

In a recent issue of LA Magazine, Wesson's response says it all: "On this one, we did not project accurately what was going to occur. We could have done a deeper dive; we might have looked at doing a pilot project first. We spent a couple of years reviewing it. Sometimes we get things wrong. I'm not ashamed to say that I was wrong on this one."

Need I say more? "A Bridge Home" should be given a DEEP DIVE. Homeless individuals and families need well-thought out solutions, not just photo-ops from folks wanting higher office.

We have a huge homeless crisis that keeps growing. The reason is the City has not prioritized the building of affordable units. It keeps building luxury units, with studios starting at \$2,500. If \$15 an hour-employees work full time, their annual salaries would be approximately \$31,000. And after taxes, it's far less. If you can find a one-bedroom apartment for \$1,800 you would be lucky. But that would still cost \$21,600 a year. LA needs affordable housing, so let's be smart and build affordable units that rent for less than \$1,000 a studio. This would alleviate the growing homeless situation in LA.

Councilmember Wesson had his folks handing out his ideal version of what the Homeless Shelter will look like in Ktown, saying it was "a fact" that there were 400 or so homeless people in Koreatown. Well, until I see the raw data for his conclusions, forgive me if I am skeptical. I have endured more than a decade of Wesson not acting honorably towards the Koreatown community, so excuse me if I don't believe his words.

Actions speak much louder than words. Wesson's "action" has been not listening to residents and stakeholders in this area. Instead, he has tried to drown out voices and opinions he does not like. He has called for the entire City to come to a "rally" he called for this Friday at 8:45 a.m. – a rally to support temporary homeless shelters. This coincides with Ktown's announced gathering to speak at city council. We are rescheduling our gathering in an abundance of caution, to prevent potential misunderstandings that might arise out of language issues.

If you wish to join the movement to stand up against another fiasco-in-the-making, please go to www.koreatownvoice.com to be notified of future gatherings.



Cate Hurley | Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
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Mayra Medel <mayra.medel@lacity.org>

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Sat, Feb 4, 2017 at 4:32 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, Cecilia Cabello home <[REDACTED]>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Lynette American <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[REDACTED]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Is Mayor Garcetti Soft On Trump?

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/is-mayor-garcetti-soft-on-trump-7882268>

Basically, LA's Garcetti hasn't lived up to his promise

<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20170203/basically-las-garcetti-hasnt-lived-up-to-his-promise-guest-commentary>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti helps open \$50 million Terminal Island water reclamation plant upgrade

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/environment-and-nature/20170203/la-mayor-garcetti-helps-open-50-million-terminal-island-water-reclamation-plant-upgrade>

Seven Los Angeles Great Streets To Re Imagine Public Space

<https://www.kcet.org/news-analysis/seven-los-angeles-great-streets-to-re-imagine-public-space>

LA announces winners of Great Street Challenge

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/02/03/68760/la-announces-winners-of-great-street-challenge-com/>

Watch This Heart Wrenching Reunion At LAX Of A Family Affected By Trump's Travel Ban

<http://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/watch-this-heart-wrenching-reunion-at-lax-of-a-family-affected-by-trumps-travel-ban/>

Iranian man returns to LAX after being sent to Dubai under Trump executive order

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/02/03/68707/iranian-man-returns-to-lax-after-being-sent-to-dub/>

Donald Trump supports LA bid for 2024 Olympic Games, organizers say

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/events/20170203/donald-trump-supports-la-bid-for-2024-olympic-games-organizers-say>

LA Weekly

Is Mayor Garcetti Soft On Trump?

By Hillel Aron

Democratic politicians around the country are tripping over themselves to denounce our new president and his executive order halting travel and refugees from seven majority-Muslim countries. The day after that order was given, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio unleashed a series of tweets calling the order "shameful" and "un-American," and then added: "President Trump's executive order erodes our constitutional rights. If this is where he's starting, imagine where he's going."

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, also on Twitter, announced that he was rushing off to the airport to help those who had been detained, and said: "We'll fight today, and we'll fight tomorrow." A bit later, in an opinion piece for CNN, Walsh pledged: "I will do everything lawful within my power to protect our immigrant neighbors, documented or not. If necessary, I will use City Hall itself to shelter and protect them from persecution."

Here in California, the state Senate passed a sharply worded resolution condemning the order, saying it "desecrates our American values and panders to fears and nativist instincts that have resulted in some of our nation's most shameful acts." The sharpest response, perhaps, came from Congressman Ted Lieu, who just hours after Trump's executive order released a statement saying, "Trump's action is not based on national security, it is based on bigotry. Lady Liberty is crying."

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's comments were more temperate. His immediate statement said the order "unfairly targets

refugees" and pointed out that "there is no evidence that this approach will improve national security." On Tuesday, when asked about Trump's executive orders, Garcetti said, "I think on the face of them, [they] are unconstitutional and illegal." Earlier in the week, Garcetti came across as far more conciliatory. Asked by National Public Radio if he embraced the narrative of California being ground zero for the Trump resistance, he replied:

I look forward to working with the White House in areas like infrastructure, where President Trump says he wants to spend a trillion dollars. Great, we'd love to start right here in Los Angeles. He's been very supportive of our Olympic bid. But we're also going to stand up for our families not to be divided. We're going to stand up for our economy, where 61 percent of our Main Street businesses are started by immigrants, and [for] making sure that we can continue to tell the ... human story of ... that history, to engage with it and, yes, to work with this administration on fixing what's broken, an immigration system right now that works, really, for nobody.

When asked about Trump's threat to withdraw federal funding from so-called "sanctuary cities," Garcetti replied: "We've never declared ourself a sanctuary city; I'm still not sure what one is."

So was Garcetti being soft on Trump?

"I think many of us would like to see him be a little more aggressive and a little more resistant to the Trump administration, especially given how Democratic the city is," says Fernando Guerra, a professor of political science at Loyola Marymount University. "In terms of being the mayor of L.A., there is no cost to being the leader of resistance."

"Having said that," Guerra adds, "it's not in his nature. And there's nothing wrong with that. You just can't have someone do something that's not in their nature."

Indeed, Garcetti is famously diplomatic, capable of charming different rooms of people on different days. His slogan when he was running for mayor, if you'll recall, was "back to basics," a pleasant-sounding phrase that could be interpreted any number of ways.

There's another, more rational reason for Garcetti's moderate tone. The L.A. mayor is all but assured of re-election, so he doesn't have to worry about whipping the electorate into a Trump-hating frenzy, or about raising money — at least in the short term. His immediate priorities are getting things done. Garcetti hopes to expand L.A.'s rail network, turn the Los Angeles River into a giant urban park and bring the Olympics back to the city. All three require cooperation from Washington, D.C.

"I don't know that Garcetti has said anything dramatically different from [state Senate president pro tem] Kevin de Leon or [State Assembly Speaker] Anthony Rendon," says USC professor Dan Schnur. "But it's clear from his tone that he wants to find a way to stand up for the people of his city on the one hand but not forfeit the potential to move forward on large-scale infrastructure on the other."

Trump has pledged to pass a major infrastructure bill. While it's unclear what exactly that will look like, both Garcetti and Gov. Jerry Brown have made it clear that they'd like their pet projects to be considered.

"Both Garcetti and Jerry Brown have been much more measured than other California politicians," Schnur says.

Should Garcetti decide to run for governor in 2018, the calculus may change dramatically. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, whom some consider the gubernatorial frontrunner, was quick to join protesters in San Francisco after Trump issued his executive order. Should Trump continue on his current trajectory, the governor's race may hinge upon who is the biggest Trump basher.

Daily News

Basically, LA's Garcetti hasn't lived up to his promise

By Anne Marie Johnson

In 2013, then-candidate Eric Garcetti promised a "back to basics" agenda as mayor of Los Angeles — a streamlined government that would create a stronger economy and a more efficient and effective City Hall. According to a recent guest commentary on this page by two Democratic strategists, he has delivered "on far more than the 'basics.'"

The problem is, the facts don't back it up.

Since Garcetti has taken office, the basics have not improved a great deal, and many trends in the city have gone unaddressed. Housing costs have risen 31 percent since he took office, and countless families are now struggling to pay over 50 percent of their income on rent every year.

With the continued reduction of affordable housing in favor of luxury housing, it's no wonder the homeless population has steadily increased since 2013, with an additional 11 percent in the last year. Now, new tent cities are popping up along our sidewalks every day and the problem continues to get worse and worse. Our quality of life is on the decline for everyone, and yet our city government continues to do the bare minimum in addressing this growing crisis.

From 2015 to 2016, overall crime went up more than 4.6 percent and violent crime up more than 5.3 percent. Meanwhile, more than 30 percent of our streets are in serious need of resurfacing or total reconstruction, yet the Department of Public Works focuses on maintaining Los Angeles' least damaged streets since the rest are deemed too expensive to fix at this point.

Paying to deal with these problems is not easy. Los Angeles already has one of the highest sales taxes in the nation.

There's no wiggle room in the budget, either. Since Garcetti took office, the budget has grown by \$1 billion — a 22 percent increase. Are our sidewalks 22 percent better? Is the trimming of our city trees 22 percent better? Are there 22 percent fewer potholes in our neighborhoods? Of course not.

And with regard to net hires, not many have been made. For example, the Los Angeles Police Department is no closer to the additional 2,500 officers that both Chief Charlie Beck and former Chief Bill Bratton said we needed two years ago. Nor have we seen an increase in the number of city employees from the roughly 32,000 employees we had since the Great Recession.

we're not adding more jobs in Los Angeles, yet government spending continues to increase, raising cost of living for Angelenos.

In terms of "back to basics" at the community level, Garcetti has done hardly anything to give power back to the more than 90 neighborhood councils that span our city. As a proud board member of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, I can easily attest to the struggles many other councils share when it comes to making our voices heard on neighborhood issues.

If Garcetti wants to brag about being a "back to basics" mayor, he needs to explain to us why the basics are pretty lousy. We need a progressive mayor who will stand up to President Trump's administration. That's why I'm supporting Mitchell Schwartz in the March 7 election.

I've gotten to know Schwartz, a progressive Democrat, entrepreneur, and environmental leader, and I'm proud to say he's the leader Los Angeles deserves in the time of Trump. A leader who will put Angelenos first, not City Hall insiders or special interests.

Schwartz has pledged that, as mayor, he would fix the lack of affordable housing, reform and restructure the Department of Water and Power, and restore ethics to City Hall.

Maybe it is time the city elected a mayor who — unlike Garcetti, who has been fundraising across the country for a potential campaign for governor in California — will spend less time talking about getting things done and more time getting them done here in Los Angeles.

Daily Breeze

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti helps open \$50 million Terminal Island water reclamation plant upgrade

By City News Service

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti helped celebrate a \$50 million expansion of the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant today, which he said will help Angelenos save more than 12 million gallons of potable water per day.

"We may be seeing a wetter winter this year, but L.A. is still in a historic drought — and saving water is as important as ever," Garcetti said.

"This new facility is a bold investment that will help us save drinking water, expand our use of recycled water, and become a more sustainable city for generations to come."

Before the expansion, the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant could produce six million gallons of recycled water per day, but its capacity has now doubled.

Garcetti's office said the additional water will be used to recharge the Dominguez Gap Barrier, which prevents ocean water from seeping into groundwater aquifers along the coast, and to irrigate Harbor Golf Course, which will help meet the mayor's goal of converting 85 percent of Los Angeles' golf course acreage to recycled water use.

"L.A. Sanitation is leading the way when it comes to water reclamation infrastructure, and we have come a long way since Terminal Island was first built in 1935. The new disinfection process, called the Advanced Oxidation Process, uses ultraviolet light to purify water," said Enrique Zaldivar, general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation.

"With this new expansion, we will be able to treat 100 percent of the plant flow to this extensively treated high-quality recycled water standard."

KCET

Seven Los Angeles Great Streets To Re Imagine Public Space

By City News Service

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Friday announced the winners of the Great Streets Challenge, with a total of \$2 million awarded for seven projects designed to improve the city's commercial corridors.

"Our streets belong to the people who use them every day, and the Great Streets Challenge empowers Angelenos to re-imagine public spaces in their own neighborhoods," Garcetti said.

"These grants will allow community groups to bring a vision to life — transforming streets across Los Angeles into vibrant, walkable spaces that reflect the unique character of their communities," he said.

Seven projects were selected as winners out of 37 applications from 99 community organizations, and include projects in Watts, Boyle Heights, Panorama City and on the Westside.

The winning community partners will receive up to \$13,000 for community outreach, and will be supported by city staff in implementing the projects, according to Garcetti's office.

The winning projects and their locations are

Grant Housing & Economic Development Corporation and Watts Re:Imagined at Wilmington Avenue between 103rd Street and Imperial Highway;

Pacoima Beautiful at the intersection of Van Nuys Boulevard and Parthenia Street;

Pico Great Street Collaborative at Pico Boulevard between Fairfax Avenue and Burnside Avenue;

Proyecto Pastoral at 1st Street between Mission Road and Gless Street and 4th Street between Gless Street and Clarence Street;

South Robertson Community Foundation at Robertson Boulevard between Cadillac Avenue and Kincardine Avenue;

Thai Community Development Center at Hollywood Boulevard between Western Avenue and Harvard Boulevard; and

West Angeles Community Development Corporation at Crenshaw Boulevard between W. 52nd and W. 63rd streets.

Fifth District Councilman Paul Koretz said he was "thrilled" the mayor selected Robertson Boulevard as a Great Streets Challenge grant recipient.

"I've been working with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to come up with creative ways to turn this major north/south thoroughfare into a safer, more walkable, artistic and vibrant center for everyone," Koretz said. "The grant money will allow us to further our goals of creating, attracting and providing more community access, reducing commercial vacancies, improving parking while enhancing safety for those by car, foot, transit or bike," he said.

KCET

LA announces winners of Great Street Challenge

Plans for a cultural destination in Thai Town, a safer Crenshaw Corridor, improved public spaces and pop-up street festivals for five other Los Angeles commercial districts moved closer to development Friday after L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the winners of his Great Streets Challenge.

The seven winners will each receive up to \$13,000 to help increase foot traffic, along with economic and cultural activities, according to the challenge's website. The mayor selected projects from 37 applications representing 99 partner organizations throughout the city.

You can see the full list of winners here, along with the location and plans for each of the seven proposed projects. One of the challenge's winners was the environmental justice group Pacoima Beautiful. The group hopes to transform a section of a median in the middle of Van Nuys Boulevard in Panorama City, their planning director Max Podemski told KPCC.

"We thought that would be a great place to introduce a pedestrian island that could also function as a public space for people to gather, and also slow down traffic and create more of a human-scaled street," he said.

But the winnings from the Great Streets Challenge will probably not be enough to completely rebuild the curb and put in a new sidewalk, Podemski said in an email, adding that his organization was now looking at more temporary solutions using planters, removable posts and paint.

Other winners cheered their victories as a step in the right direction for underdeveloped streets.

City Councilmember Paul Koretz said in a statement that he was thrilled about the extra funding for the South Robertson Community Foundation's longtime plans to revitalize Robertson Boulevard between Cadillac Avenue and Kincardine Avenue.

"The grant money will allow us to further our goals of creating, attracting, and providing more community access, reducing commercial vacancies, improving parking while enhancing safety for those by car, foot, transit or bike," he stated.

Garcetti launched the Great Streets Initiative in 2013. The Great Streets Challenge is the latest in a series of safety improvement projects throughout the city, according to the initiative's website.

LA Magazine

Watch This Heart Wrenching Reunion At LAX Of A Family Affected By Trump's Travel Ban

By Julia Herbst

Five days after a federal judge issued an emergency stay against President Trump's travel ban, Ali Vayeghan was the first person originally denied U.S. entry to be allowed to return. Mayor Eric Garcetti (who later shared this touching video on Facebook) was at LAX to welcome Vayeghan, along with members of Vayeghan's family, and the legal team who helped him.

Vayeghan—who is Iranian and has an immigrant visa—spoke to journalists after his arrival, according to the L.A. Times. His niece translated for him: "This is what humanity looks like," he said. "This is what human rights looks like. I am shocked, honored and awed. Please let them know I'm not mad at anybody. This is the greatest country in the world."

KPCC

Iranian man returns to LAX after being sent to Dubai under Trump executive order

Four days after a federal judge in Los Angeles issued an order for the return of an Iranian man who was denied entry at LAX and sent to Dubai as a result of President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, the man is back in Los Angeles.

Ali Khoshbakhti Vayeghan, an Iranian citizen with a valid visa, is the only traveler so far under Trump's order who has been allowed to return to the U.S. after being sent away, according to the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Vayeghan arrived early Thursday afternoon at L.A. International Airport, where he was greeted by family members and a crowd including Mayor Eric Garcetti singing Woodie Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land."

"I can't believe the mayor is here," Vayeghan said, hugging his niece. "This is what humanity looks like."

Ali Vayeghan, an Iranian citizen with a valid U.S. visa, left, is kissed by his niece Marjan Vayghan as his brother Hossein Vayghan welcomes him at Los Angeles International Airport on Feb. 2, 2017. Vayeghan had been turned away from LAX by President Trump's travel ban until a judge's ruling put the ban on hold. DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Vayeghan's brother, Hossein Vayeghan, and his niece, Marjan Vayghan, were among those descending on the airport to welcome him, according to the ACLU. When Vayeghan emerged from a hallway into the Terminal 2 baggage claim area, Hossein and Marjan greeted him with hugs and kisses.

Hossein first came to the airport on Friday, when customs officials refused to provide answers about the whereabouts and well-being of Ali, Hossein said. Later that night he got a call.

"Somebody called my telephone and said sorry, I have bad news for you," he said. "In my culture, we say 'bad news for you' only when somebody is dead."

but Vayeghan wasn't dead. He was one of an unknown number of foreign travelers detained at LAX starting Friday as a result of the executive order temporarily banning people from seven Muslim-majority countries, including Iran, from entering the United States. Officials have not responded to requests to disclose how many people have been held. A New York judge blocked the ban Saturday, after 52-year-old Vayeghan had already been put on a plane to Dubai after Vayeghan signed a form withdrawing his application to enter the country. In Dubai, he was held in custody awaiting a possible return to Iran.

As the drama unfolded, hundreds of protestors descended on LAX and other airports across the country over the weekend.

On Sunday, U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee granted a request from the ACLU and ordered Vayeghan returned to the U.S. But Immigration attorneys told KPCC customs officials refused to accept official service of the order and U.S. Marshals, who customarily serve federal court orders, also refused to deliver it. According to a source, it was because the order did not specifically require it.

Daily Breeze

Donald Trump supports LA bid for 2024 Olympic Games, organizers say

By Scott Reid

As the Trump presidency is increasingly seen as a liability to Los Angeles' pursuit of the 2024 Olympic Games, organizers on Friday reiterated the new administration's support of the bid while also emphasizing the city's diversity and inclusiveness.

Describing Los Angeles as "a city without cultural borders," Los Angeles 2024 chairman Casey Wasserman and chief executive officer Gene Sykes, speaking on a conference call, pushed a message that offered a clear contrast to the first two weeks of the Trump administration.

"L.A. is literally whatever you want it to be," Wasserman said. "The world lives here, and that's no exaggeration. There's no question that every global city, including our competitors in this race, are multiculturally diverse. But you know what makes a difference? The diversity of L.A. is the glue that holds it together. Ours is a diversity that unites our city instead of dividing it."

The call on LA 2024's submission of the 127-page Stage III bid book to the International Olympic Committee on Friday came shortly after Iran's official news agency reported the U.S. wrestling team would not be permitted to compete in a World Cup event in the western Iranian city of Kermanshah later this month.

The submission and call also came a week after Trump's executive order banning most citizens from Iran and six other mostly Muslim nations from entering the U.S. touched off calls for Los Angeles' bid to be withdrawn and raised questions about the viability of any American Olympic bid in the current political climate.

"It's important to remember just what it is we're bidding for," Sykes said. "Yes, we're bidding for the world's biggest sporting event. Yes, we're bidding for the economic benefits these games will undoubtedly deliver to our city. Yes, we're bidding for the chance to harness L.A.'s extraordinary creativity and innovation to develop a new games for a new era. But more than that, we're bidding to welcome back the world back to the United States and help the Olympic movement to fulfill its mandate."

"At the launch of the modern Olympic Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin said, 'We shall not have peace until the prejudices that now separate our nations have been outlived.' We're bidding above all else to unite the youth of the world in friendship and peace through sport to reassure future generations that the U.S. remains the most welcoming nation on Earth, that our ideals and the Olympic ideals are one and the same. And that Los Angeles is ready to serve the Olympic world once again."

Trump recently abruptly ended a call with Australia prime minister Malcolm Turnbull. He has also been sharply critical of NATO.

Australians have held influential positions within the IOC for at least the past three decades. Australia's John Coates is a current IOC vice president. Of the IOC's 95 members, 29 come from NATO countries other than the U.S. Another 16 IOC members are from non-NATO European countries.

Wasserman, however, said he had "no concerns" about an anti-Trump backlash influencing IOC voters.

"When we raised our hand for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it was because we believe in the power of the movement to unite the world," Wasserman said. "And that was an ability to unite the world through sport, not politics, and we believe that now more than ever. And I agree with (Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti), who said we'll be judged on the merits of our bid, not politics. Because the IOC has always acted in the interest of sport above politics, and we have no doubt the same will continue in this process."

Sykes said the bid has "very strong support from the administration."

"President Trump during the transition had a long conversation with Thomas Bach and expressed his support for LA 2024 and his enthusiasm for the Olympics," Sykes said.

LA 2024 and U.S. Olympic Committee officials were able to work with administration officials last weekend to ensure Iran's archery team would be able to travel to a World Cup competition in Las Vegas from Feb. 10-12.

"We have very direct relationships with very senior people in the White House, and when the travel ban on immigration or visitors from certain countries was announced on Friday, we realized there were problems. We immediately got in touch with senior people in the White House and their first response: 'We want to help you,'" Sykes said. "We know when we need to we can call on senior people. We've done that and we will continue to do whatever we need to make sure we accommodate sporting people, officials, athletes, etc., so that we make this process work. And I believe very strongly we'll

be able to do that.

City Council:

Endorsement: Blumenfield for another City Council term-not that there is any other choice

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/endorsements/la-ed-cd3-endorsement-20170202-story.html>

Donald Trump's Cabinet Picks! Insane appointees, LA Council outrage

<http://mynews1a.com/government/2017/02/03/dump-trumps-cabinet-picks-insane-appointees-la-council-outrage/>

For LA Street Vendors, A Step Toward Legality

<http://www.citylab.com/crime/2017/02/for-la-street-vendors-a-step-toward-legality/515643/>

For LA, California politicians, issues here should trump all

<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20170203/for-la-california-politicians-issues-here-should-trump-all-sal-rodriguez>

LA city attorney demands list of people detained at LAX under Trump's travel order

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-trump-travel-lax-20170203-story.html>

LA city attorney demands list of LAX detainees after Trump's executive order

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/social-affairs/20170203/la-city-attorney-demands-list-of-lax-detainees-after-trump-executive-action>

Arts, Parks & River:

Learn About The Sixth Street Viaduct Park

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/news/learn-about-the-sixth-street-viaduct-park/article_e14d113c-ea47-11e6-84ec-0bc0ec75fd38.html

Economic Development:

HPP is in advanced talks to acquire Hollywood Center Studios for roughly \$200M: Sources

<https://therealdeal.com/la/2017/02/02/udson-pacific-properties-is-in-advanced-talks-to-acquire-hollywood-center-studios-for-roughly-200m/>

Fanciful 52 story tower intended as gateway to Downtown Los Angeles

<http://la.curbed.com/2017/2/3/14500112/52-story-tower-toyota-car-dealership-renderings>

Vermont Triangle poised for revamp with new planters

<https://therealdeal.com/la/2017/02/03/vermont-triangle-poised-for-revamp-with-new-planters/>

Developer brings job training program to South Los Angeles

<http://wavenewspapers.com/developer-brings-job-training-program-to-south-los-angeles/>

Energy & Environment:

Editorial: Not enough listening at Aliso Canyon gas leak hearing

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/opinion/20170203/not-enough-listening-at-aliso-canyon-gas-leak-hearing>

Health, Mental Health & Education:

School board member or ...killer? Hard to tell

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-edu-zimmer-looks-like-killer-20170202-story.html>

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<http://www.kabc.com/2017/02/03/immigration-activist-group-alleges-laUSD-of-backpedaling-on-promise/>

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The Marijuana Breathalyzer Tops Police Departments' Tech Wish Lists

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Metro may partner with private companies to speed up two big Measure M projects

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4 Ways To Get To The Parking Lot Deprived Culver City Metro Stop

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There's No Immigration Checkpoint At San Pedro And Pico, It's A Hoax

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Mayra Medel <mayra.medel@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

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LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

“Very little in the way of educational activity,” Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. “At one point, they tried to show the movie ‘Christopher Robin,’ but the sound quality was so bad it couldn’t be understood. Couldn’t read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything.”

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. “We kept him home today,” she said of her son, “and probably will for the rest of the week.”

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers “heroes.”

“Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids’ side,” García said. “We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike.”

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

“As I’ve said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I’ll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this,” he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

“This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles,” said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of “looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We’ve got to change that.”

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Association on Monday.

in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with

the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats — outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in

librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At a school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

... ..

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." [pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq](https://twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq)

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since

infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." <https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter-school strike in the nation and the first in California since 2005.

of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodman, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodman, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she

Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,'" said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauder

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and staff. But I do take

my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group

As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone

By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade reporting requirements and "obstruction of justice."

services.

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over \$245,000 for the "Coalition for Responsible Community Development," which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for

three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters? Our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three

or these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably

large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhood unleashed a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance. It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch #WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothepolls.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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Cate Hurley | Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>

Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 3:18 AM

To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:**Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/angelenos-are-good-with-la-mayor-eric-garcetti-running-for-president/>**LMU survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President**<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/09/22/lmu-survey-63-of-angelenos-would-support-garcetti-for-president/>**Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/keep-attention-on-aliso-canyon-gas-leak-and-its-victims-christy-smith/>**LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people**<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/09/22/la-gets-closer-to-more-housing-construction-for-average-income-people/>**LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/la-one-step-closer-to-more-affordable-housing-near-transit-lines/>**Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California**<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-concrete-earthquake-danger-20170922-htm1story.html>**Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city**<http://abc7.com/garcetti-discusses-early-warning-system-sanctuary-city/2444008/>**It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA**https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/sports/wp/2017/09/22/its-already-time-to-wonder-if-the-nfl-made-a-big-mistake-putting-two-teams-in-la/?utm_term=.0d880337fb66**Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/21/california-votes-for-march-madness-over-june-gloom/>**Daily News****Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president**

By Elizabeth Chou

Mayor Eric Garcetti is looking presidential to some Angelenos.

A majority of local area residents polled earlier this summer said they are just fine with the Los Angeles mayor running for president, according to results released by Loyola Marymount University.

In a survey that received 914 responses, 62.7 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political position. The percentage was slightly higher for residents of the city of Los Angeles, with 63.5 percent of those polled supportive of the idea.

Latinos were the most strongly in support, with 72.7 percent saying they back a presidential bid by Garcetti. The idea also polled the best with the 30-44 age-group, and among those who earn less than \$40,000 annually.

Not everyone liked the thought of a run for president by Garcetti. The majority of those with a graduate degree and people with annual incomes of more than \$100,000 said they do not support him running.

Details about the poll results and methodology can be found here.

The results provide further fodder for an ongoing parlor discussion by political observers around whether Garcetti is entertaining a run for president in 2020. Recent out-of-state trips by the Los Angeles mayor have fueled the speculation. He attended a Democratic Party convention in Wisconsin and participated in a fundraiser for a mayoral candidate in New Hampshire, a state that kicks off the presidential primaries.

Fernando Guerra, a Loyola Marymount political science professor who led the poll, says that at least for Angelenos, there is support for the idea of Garcetti running for president, but "naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles."

Survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President

By City News Service

If Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti chooses to run for president, he need not worry about a local backlash, as a majority of county residents said in a new survey released Friday that they would support the move.

The question was asked of Los Angeles County residents as part of a survey conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"At least in his hometown, Mayor Garcetti polls strongly as a potential candidate for president," said Fernando Guerra, director of the center. "Naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles. But as of today, he'd have L.A.'s backing."

After taking a number of steps that some political observers have seen as preliminary maneuvering to running for president in 2020, Garcetti has not ruled out a presidential run when asked directly by reporters over the last few months — but he also has not ruled out a run for governor of California in 2018.

Garcetti, a Democrat, recently visited New Hampshire to support a mayoral candidate in Manchester.

The visit to the site of the nation's first presidential primary during the August trip also included cocktails in the Hamptons at the estate of billionaire Ronald Perelman, a major political donor.

The mayor also recently appeared at Democratic Party events in Wisconsin and at the Center for American Progress' Ideas Conference in Washington, D.C.

According to the survey, 63 percent of the 914 respondents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti launching a bid for the White House.

Support for a Garcetti presidential run was strongest among Latinos (73 percent), voters aged 30-44 (69 percent), and those earning less than \$40,000 a year (74 percent). Those with advanced graduate degrees or earning more than \$100,000 annually were the only groups mostly opposed.

Even among residents who self-identified as conservative, 51 said they supported a Garcetti candidacy.

Daily News

Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims

By Christy Smith

Harvey, Irma, Jose, Katia and, now, Maria. Headline-snatching hurricanes and tropical thunderstorms are rapidly becoming a dystopian staple.

With Texas recovering from the devastating effects of Harvey, Floridians reeling after Irma and Puerto Rico still underwater from Maria, Americans are justifiably consumed by the current hurricane hype. As we send our well-wishes, the whole nation gives our sympathy and unwavering support to the victims of these natural disasters.

Unfortunately — as is often the case with the volatile nature of news — as one issue receives justified attention and coverage, others fade into obscurity while still desperately requiring public attention and administrative oversight. This has quickly become Porter Ranch's reality.

As the largest natural gas disaster in U.S. history, the 2015 Porter Ranch gas leak was by no means an insignificant issue.

Porter Ranch cradles the 36,000-acre Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, essentially a subterranean warehouse capable of containing up to 80 billion cubic feet of natural gas. On the morning of Oct. 23, 2015, a ruptured casing on one of the wells led to a torrential outpouring of methane into the atmosphere.

The emissions were so massive that NASA reported the damage could be detected and viewed from space.

Approximately 8,000 families were forced to relocate at the time, with local schools shut down and business suffering from consumer flight.

While methane is not lethal to the same degree as carbon monoxide, medical research points to it having a variety of chronic health consequences. Known to cause bloody noses, nausea, and headaches to vomiting and rashes, methane is also considered highly dangerous due to its odorless composition, which prevents easy detection of a leak.

With its capability to trap radiation, trapping heat in the atmosphere, methane is also a damaging contributor to climate change and, on the scale of Porter Ranch's leak, deadly. The Environmental Defense Fund estimated that by mid-December the Porter Ranch leak's methane emissions were on par with 7 million new cars or six coal-burning factories. Over the span of a four-month ordeal, nearly 100,000 metric tons of methane were released into the atmosphere, which effectively doubled the emissions rate of the entire Los Angeles basin.

Indeed, Porter Ranch was on the lips of some of the world's leading figures in Paris last year as they debated and disagreed about the environmental impacts of climate change. L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, before the U.S. commitment to and subsequent withdrawal from the Paris agreement, lamented the crisis as a "natural disaster."

However, it seems to be far more than just that. More likely, this was also a human disaster. Since then, the Southern California Gas Co. has been buried in lawsuits surrounding corporate negligence, and has paid up to \$465 million in costs associated with relocations and cleanup.

While the corporation undoubtedly feels it is doing a sufficient amount to cover reparations for this catastrophic blunder, recent developments are worrying.

A medical study that was being conducted as a follow-up to the gas leak under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was abruptly blocked, because Dr. Nordella saw his employment as medical director of Porter Ranch Quality Care terminated. Since the leak, Nordella had been tracking different developments in more than 100 patients who had been affected by the methane leak. Nordella, as reported by the Daily News, said he is concerned these developments could disrupt the continuity of care for the patients he sees.

recently, state regulators made a critical mistake in declaring the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility safe enough to resume natural gas injections, ignoring the concerns of doctors, local residents and former Aliso Canyon employees. With public interest in Porter Ranch waning, the corporate and regulatory negligence, environmental consequences and health crises that caused and have followed the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history could very well dwindle into obscurity. Without adamant attentiveness, the thousands of victims affected by this ordeal, people who desperately require attention, will not be heard.
We need to keep Aliso Canyon closed.

My News LA

LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people

By City News Service

City officials Friday released the final guidelines for a new incentive-based program for affordable housing production in Los Angeles near transit lines that was approved by voters last November as part of Measure JJJ.

The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if requesting changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules for projects, but also directed the city to develop the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program.

The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.

"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: end the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that. The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."

The program creates a new system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within one-half mile of a major transit stop.

The program also grants higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects are allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.

"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.

"Along with other recent actions we've taken to increase affordable housing for all Angelenos, we can look forward to a more vibrant, livable and sustainable Los Angeles," he said.

Daily News

LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines

By City News Service

Final guidelines were released Friday for a new incentive-based program approved by voters in November to encourage the production of affordable housing near Los Angeles transit lines.

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The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."

The program is designed to create a system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within a half-mile of a major transit stop.

The program would also grant higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects would be allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.

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LA Times

Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California

By Ron Gon Lin

Seismic safety experts long have warned that brittle concrete frame buildings pose a particularly deadly risk during a

But a horrifying video taken during this week's magnitude 7.1 Mexico quake may do more to highlight the risk than years of reports and studies.

In it, sirens blare, utility poles sway. Then in the background, a building wobbles. Concrete starts falling out of a ground-floor column. Then the columns flex, and the upper floors come crashing down, sinking into a cloud of dust. "¡Dios mío! ¡Dios mío!" a woman is heard saying. "My God! My God!"

The crumbled Enrique Rebsamen school in Mexico City — a three-story structure where at least 25 died, including 21 students — was made of concrete, as were many other structures that fell to the ground.

While they may be stout and muscular in appearance, concrete buildings without a robust level of steel reinforcement can see their columns peel off in chunks and then explode when exposed to violent side-to-side shaking.

In Los Angeles, dozens died when concrete structures tumbled in the 1971 magnitude 6.1 Sylmar earthquake. Several who perished were on a newly built hospital campus. And when two concrete office towers collapsed in 2011 during a 6.3 temblor in Christchurch, New Zealand, the 133 people who died accounted for more than 70% of the final toll.

After the Sylmar quake, officials quickly updated building requirements to add more steel reinforcement to new concrete buildings. But there was no systematic effort by many governments around the world to address the defect in existing concrete buildings.

'IT'S SUCH A TREMENDOUS IMPACT'

Mexico quake shows what seismic experts have long warned

Concrete buildings dot the California landscape, a popular form of construction during the postwar boom years.

But cities are just now beginning to grapple with how to make these buildings safer.

In 2015, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti pushed through a landmark law mandating retrofits of concrete buildings, hoping to avoid a catastrophe when the next earthquake comes. The city estimates there are about 1,500 such structures.

The law requires that once owners are given an order to evaluate a building, they will have 25 years to retrofit it if a study determines the structure is indeed vulnerable. City officials are in the process of identifying buildings that would be subject to the law.

A couple of other cities have done the same.

Santa Monica earlier this year published a list of vulnerable buildings — concrete, steel and wood-frame apartments — and enacted a new law requiring them to be evaluated and retrofitted if found to be vulnerable. West Hollywood also has enacted retrofit laws for the same classes of buildings.

Garcetti and seismic safety experts say the catastrophic images from Mexico this week will raise awareness of the dangers.

"Any building owner who thinks they should sit back and relax for the next 20 years should view that video. And let's figure out a way to get to work now," Garcetti said in an interview. "What's more expensive? The loss of your entire property — let alone the loss of lives — or the investment in making sure that no earthquake of that size will destroy your building or kill anyone?"

The collapsed school is a case in point. California-based structural engineers who looked at a Times photo of the school's remains said the collapse was consistent with the failure of a brittle concrete building.

Structural engineer David Cocke, vice president of the Oakland-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, pointed out how a concrete column at the school can be seen broken in half — a clean break. He said there should have been more steel reinforcement in the concrete that would have allowed the column to bend when shaken, not break like a piece of chalk.

"When they break in half like that, then you've lost it all," Cocke said.

Structural engineer Kit Miyamoto, a member of the California Seismic Safety Commission, said the photo "looked like the columns popped out of the building ... there's no adequate reinforcement. It's exactly the problem of nonductile [brittle] concrete."

And the video showing the concrete building collapsing, Miyamoto said, has "such a tremendous impact. Most people think that they are helpless, it's too expensive to fix. That's a myth. This video can defeat that myth. Evidence exists, people are dying and we know exactly what to do."

"Actually being able to physically see the process — I think it's incredibly effective. It explains what a lot of the issues are," seismologist Lucy Jones said. "Concrete buildings seem sturdy ... and being able to see directly why that's not true has got to start."

To be sure, some buildings in developing nations are not as well-engineered as some buildings in California, Cocke said. But "these buildings are not that dissimilar to some of our worst buildings. We're going to have failures on some of our older, nonductile concrete buildings that can be catastrophic — when we have intense shaking."

The video, Cocke said, also shows the threat of buildings with flimsy first stories, where relatively skinny columns hold up heavier upper floors. The so-called "soft-story" flaw is found in many California apartments, where the ground floor is built to house carports, garages or storefronts; flimsy supports can snap and collapse in shaking.

Other cities are looking at the issue.

Jones is now working with the Southern California Assn. of Governments to help cities come up with seismic retrofit legislation to propose to their elected leaders. Jones said Long Beach is looking to hire a consultant to create an inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings. And Ventura has directed its city staff to work with Jones and SCAG to develop an approach for unretrofitted brick buildings and wood apartment buildings with flimsy first stories.

The brittle concrete defect gained considerable attention after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake caused the collapse of the newly constructed Olive View Medical Center.

Several other concrete structures came tumbling down in that earthquake, including the 10-story, 1960s-era Olive View Medical Center.

or concrete structure failure.

Brittle concrete buildings also collapsed in the magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994, including a Bullock's department store and Kaiser Permanente medical office.

In addition to stabilizing concrete structures, efforts focused on other vulnerable buildings have shown signs of success. Los Angeles' 1981 law requiring retrofitting of 8,000 brick buildings saved lives: Although 60 people died in the Northridge quake, none of them were in brick structures. L.A. and a handful of other cities in California are now also requiring retrofits for apartment buildings with weak first stories.

Retrofitting concrete buildings is considered more costly. The fixes could cost \$1 million or more per structure. Occupants may have to move out during the renovation at an additional cost.

Yet a seismic retrofit is a bargain compared with the cost of replacing a collapsed building, Miyamoto said, which will be unusable and unable to generate rental income for owners. "There is no excuse to not do it," Miyamoto said. "It's spending 5% to 10% of the replacement cost to address the seismic strengthening."

Two concrete buildings at the San Fernando Veterans Administration Hospital crumbled in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, killing 49 people. (Bruce Cox / Los Angeles Times) The Pyne Gould Corp. building collapsed when the magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011. It was built in the 1960s, before the adoption of modern seismic standards for concrete buildings. (Hannah Johnston / Getty Images)

The experience in this week's Mexico earthquake also illustrates another fact: Just because your home or workplace survived a previous earthquake doesn't mean it will endure the next one.

A common sentiment in Los Angeles, as in Mexico City, was that buildings that survived past earthquakes were invulnerable to shaking. That's wrong.

Despite several devastating quakes — in 1933 in Long Beach, 1971 in Sylmar and 1994 in Northridge — many vulnerable buildings constructed during Southern California's rapid expansion in the 20th century simply have not had to face the intense shaking that scientists know can happen during an earthquake.

The last magnitude 7.8 quake that struck Southern California hit in 1857, long before the modern era of Los Angeles. "I hear quite often: 'Hey, we went through the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We're OK.' Well, that's a false sense of security," Miyamoto said. "This earthquake proved it. Doing well in one earthquake doesn't mean you'll do well in the next."

At its closest point, the San Andreas fault is just 30 miles from downtown L.A. That closeness means the tallest skyscrapers in the nation's second-largest city could be quite vulnerable during a megaquake.

A U.S. Geological Survey simulation co-written by Jones and published in 2008 said it was plausible that five steel high-rise buildings throughout Southern California — whether in downtown L.A., Orange County or San Bernardino — could come tumbling down should a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strike the San Andreas.

After the Northridge earthquake, a flaw was discovered in a common type of steel building that showed how the frame can fracture in an earthquake; Los Angeles and most other cities in California have not passed laws requiring retrofits to repair this design flaw. (Garcetti on Friday said L.A. building officials are studying Santa Monica's new law passed this year requiring retrofits of steel buildings.)

"We don't really know what's going to happen to those really tall buildings. We've never put them through a really big earthquake," Jones said.

Downtown L.A.'s shortest buildings also haven't been tested with extreme shaking, Jones said. At no point in modern history has downtown Los Angeles endured the kind of intense shaking that the San Fernando Valley did during the Northridge quake.

"Your Northridge-type earthquake is about as bad as it gets for small buildings like a single-family house or a small apartment complex," Jones said. But while places like Northridge and Chatsworth have endured what is close to the worst-case shaking, places a bit farther away — like Pasadena, Hollywood and downtown L.A. — have not.

"Even Santa Monica" has not, she said, despite the intensity of damage in that coastal city during the '94 quake. "The reason there was so much damage there was because of how old the buildings are," Jones said.

Different earthquakes will test different buildings.

A sharp magnitude 7 earthquake on an urban fault that runs through the L.A. metropolitan region — such as the Newport-Inglewood, Whittier or Sierra Madre faults — will test short buildings like no other earthquake in the modern era, Jones said.

Meanwhile, a magnitude 8 on the San Andreas fault likely will spare the worst from striking single-family homes in places farther from the fault, including the L.A. Basin. But the same megaquake could result in "collapses of high-rises at relatively large distances from the fault," Jones said.

Miyamoto said L.A. is on the right track in retrofit policy, but should consider accelerating the deadline for retrofit requirement.

"We should go faster," he said. "The earthquake will not wait for us."

ABC Los Angeles

Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city

By Adrienne Alpert

The Mexico City earthquake turns attention to Los Angeles preparedness, and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is focused on both an early warning system and an emergency plan all residents should have.

While the county has a response team in Mexico, the city's firefighters are home from Houston and Florida hurricane response, "one of the largest and longest deployments in American history." They may go to Puerto Rico next.

Southern California has earthquake sensors, and other parts of the state are expanding their systems. Appearing on Eyewitness Newsmakers, Garcetti said by the end of next year, we should have a phone app sending the earthquake early warning. In the meantime, the mayor said, "You need an analog plan in a digital era." He said every family and workplace should drill where to go and what to do if communications are lost.

North Korea's renewed nuclear threat, now saying it will test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, is very worrying to the mayor, who said Pyongyang may have the capability to reach Los Angeles. He said the city is relying on the Department of Defense and federal authorities for information.

Viewers wrote in questions for this Ask the Mayor program. One asked how citizens can get involved in the 2028 Olympics. There is a volunteer section on the website www.la28.org. Since the announcement L.A. will be a host city in 11 years, 14,000 people have already signed up. The mayor was pleased the promised Olympic money for Los Angeles youth sports is coming in soon so "a 7 or 8-year-old can compete in her backyard in 2028."

Many viewer questions focused on affordable housing and homelessness. Garcetti is pushing the city council to approve his linkage fee. It would charge luxury home developers a fee that would fund affordable housing. Developers say it will drive up housing costs even more.

To viewers who say the city is too crowded already, the mayor said he's sympathetic to preserving neighborhoods, but density needs to increase in transit corridors. He said rents are high because the city hasn't built enough, and density has to go somewhere. Using new funding sources, Garcetti talked about tripling the pace of affordable housing.

See more from his interview below:

Is Los Angeles sending any rescue teams to Mexico?

Yes. We have on the ground firefighters from Los Angeles County who are one out of two counties in the country who are authorized to leave the country when we have foreign aid. Our Los Angeles city firefighters were both in Houston and in Florida. One of the largest, if not the longest, deployments ever in American history. They may go to Puerto Rico. We just see so many events happening in so many places.

What is L.A. doing about an early warning system?

Well, earthquake safety has been a strong priority of mine. First, passing the toughest ordinance to strengthen our buildings that collapsed in 1994 and in 1971. But second, we do have an early warning system now on the ground, which is more sensors here than anywhere in the country has funded. We have it in many schools. By the end of next year, we think we will have it so that it can push to people's phones using cutting-edge technology so that we can get alerts that can save us precious seconds of time to get under a table, protect our family, protect our friends. But the last thing is people need a plan, and I keep saying this. I'm a broken record. I think especially for new generation of folks who just think our equipment will help us, you need an analog plan in a digital era. Where you're going to go whether you're at work, you're at home, in neighborhood, what's the safest place to be? Practice with your children. Practice with your family. Practice at work because that is literally what will save your life.

When the plan rolls out and gets to our phones next year, that would be just for earthquakes in the Los Angeles area. Is the West Coast system still waiting for funding?

Yes, it's actually for Southern California, so not just L.A., but we have sensors throughout Southern California. Northern California hopes to build theirs and to catch up in other parts of the state. And then yes, to link it in to the western United States as well, but for now the stuff that is here in Southern California. We will get those warnings, and we want to tie it in, like they do in Japan, to things like elevators that can shut down, that can go to the next floor, let people off so you're not stuck in between floors. Some of our subways or light rail would stop so that they don't derail in the middle of something like that and lose lives. So we're going to also tie in the technology, not just the sensors.

North Korea has threatened a nuclear strike test over the ocean. Is L.A. doing anything? Can the city do anything to prepare should any missiles get launched our way?

It is very worrying. It seems like the technology is probably there for North Korea to reach the western United States, the West Coast, maybe even as far down as Los Angeles. We monitor very closely. We're in touch with the Department of Defense and our federal authorities. I've been in the Navy for 12 years working in the Pacific fleet area, so I am well aware of this threat. I hope that our diplomatic means and sanctions can be exhausted. Sometimes rhetoric can ramp things up, and it can be crazy. I'm hoping that we can ramp down the rhetoric, figure out a way to be strong, to defend our interest so to use whatever means we can to make sure it doesn't end up as a tragedy.

Do we have any kind of defensive system here in Los Angeles?

Not that the city of Los Angeles owns. The Department of Defense does have a defense system for the western United States.

Vickie Mays of Los Angeles asks, "The 2028 Olympics is a great time for a planning process that can benefit not only sports, but education, neighborhood development and civic engagement. How can the average person get involved?"

We're so excited the Olympics are coming home. Just last week I was in Lima, Peru, and it's going to be the third time and only the third city to have that, and what I was blown away in the lead up is that we had 14,000 people sign up to volunteer already even though it's 11 years in the future. Our plan is to use that volunteer base to get engaged, to get involved, to do exactly what our viewer was saying, to adopt a school, help us with homelessness, clean up a neighborhood, be a coach and help maybe train a 6 or 7-year-old who could maybe train who could compete in her backyard here in the 2028 Olympics. Our first payment from the International Olympic Committee because we negotiated so well to have dollars for youth sports will start coming in the beginning of next year, so in 2018 we will start to see the fees in city's parks lessened, make it universal access to all sports for kids. I want to work with high schools and have that baton pass so that a kid could get involved in swimming at 5 years old and by the time they're 18 can have great coaching, great opportunities without having to worry about the cost.

Leticia Bustamante of Palmdale asks, "My daughter is a competitive swimmer. How can we get her involved in the 2028 Olympics?"

immigrants. We would like the mayor to reflect the views of his constituents, not just a certain sect or political party." Everybody has a definition of what a sanctuary city is. I bet under her definition, which is a place that protects criminals and if you're an undocumented citizen bonus points. We're not that. But what we are and have been since Daryl Gates was our police chief, five different police chiefs, and I guess I'm too pro-cops to stop listening to them, is that we have a system that does not deputize essentially our cops to be immigration officials. That is the federal government's responsibility not ours. To build trust in our communities since for instance we just took down MS-13 in a huge two-year long operation, very dangerous gang, we were able to do that because we have trust in those communities where some people are documented and some aren't, that LAPD is somebody they can trust and tell them 'oh that is where the bad guy lives' or 'hey check it out over there in that apartment.' It makes us all safer when people come out of the shadows and are able to report crime and participate with LAPD.

City Council wants to declare L.A. as city of sanctuary, not as a sanctuary city. Will you support that if that vote takes place?

Yes, I've used that term and I always say that if being a city of sanctuary means that our cops do their job and the feds do theirs and we abide by the Constitution because we can't hold people longer than the Constitution allows, then yes that's what we are and proudly so. But I think that there is a misconception. A lot of people think a sanctuary city are mayors in the country saying "Please come here if you are a criminal." And that couldn't be further from the truth. We all want to get the bad criminals, and I'm worried that our federal policies are casting a wide net now. Not catching the bad sharks in the sea but are instead picking up a bunch of fish that are causing no harm.

John C. of Long Beach asks, "When and where will affordable housing be built? How many single units?"

Well it's being built already. You can go to the housing community investment department in our city to look where it is. We have a regular list. You can sign up to get on the waiting lists as well to get in the housing. It's not enough though. It's one of the reasons I am pushing our city council to pass as soon as possible. It's in its last phases so viewers can call their council members. Something called a linkage fee so whenever we see one of these large, luxury condominiums or apartment buildings come up in Downtown or Koreatown they'd have to pay a fee that we would then put aside to then build affordable housing for the rest of us, something that would subsidize literally thousands of units throughout our city. Theresa Ramirez of Los Angeles asks, "Why do you support the overbuilding of housing units in Los Angeles, and specifically in the Echo Park, Frog Town areas? Our streets, roads, and freeways cannot handle the added traffic congestion that is caused by building for more units on a lot that used to have one unit."

"I think housing needs to be built, but it does need to be built in the right place. There is no one neighborhood or one place that I say automatically give a green light. So I'm sympathetic with people who want to preserve the single-family character of neighborhoods, but the tradeoff is that we have to along those corridors where we are investing public transportation, along the Wilshire corridor, places like the Crenshaw-LAX line that we are building now. Density has to go someplace and if we build nothing like we did in the '90s, it's not that people don't come here. They make it even worse in the traffic in the neighborhoods because they cram in what looks like one home might have four families in it. We need to build good, quality, affordable housing, but I do think we should put it where there is transit and public transportation so we don't have bottlenecks in all of our neighborhoods."

Phoenicia of Los Angeles asks, "With the current increase in the homeless population in Los Angeles, what steps are being taken to house this population, as well as housing for displaced families due to the increase in rent prices?"

It's my No. 1 concern. It's where I spend the most time. I have a war room that I've convened in City Hall where I spend hours each week on this. We, thanks to the voters, have HHH dollars which are 10,000 units worth of new housing that we will build, thanks to the voters of Los Angeles. Measure H which was countywide will also give us additional dollars to help with subsidizing and things like rapid rehousing, which is a fancy way of saying if you're on the verge of homelessness and you call the county or the 511 service they have there, you can get assistance.

And now we've seen Hepatitis A starting to show up in Los Angeles.

It really exploded in San Diego, but there's a couple cases here. I've really encouraged our county officials and our fire departments working for them to declare a public health emergency before it spread widely, especially in the encampment areas of Downtown and other places. We're giving our first responders and others who live on the street access to getting vaccinations as well. It's much worse down South, we saw it also in Santa Cruz, but we want to stop it before it spreads here.

Washington Post

It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA

By Mark Maske

It took more than two decades for the NFL to return to Los Angeles. The league's explanation during much of that time was that it wanted to make certain that when it did go back, it would be done in a way that would ensure lasting success. It took all of two weekends into the first season with two L.A. franchises to make it fair to wonder whether the league's decision to permit the Chargers to join the Rams in Los Angeles was misguided.

"No one is covering what a massive mistake that the league and Chargers have made by moving this team to LA," Joe Banner, a former executive for the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns, wrote this week on Twitter.

The concerns bubbled to the surface after the Chargers drew a crowd of just 25,381 to the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., for last Sunday's loss to the Miami Dolphins in their home opener. It's one thing to play in a tiny, 27,000-seat temporary home. It's another thing to fail to fill it.

The Rams drew 56,612 to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last Sunday for their loss to the Washington Redskins. That made for a combined attendance of 81,993 for the two NFL franchises in Los Angeles last weekend. The USC-

Texas game last Saturday at the Coliseum drew 64,714.

"Did we do the wrong thing with the Chargers? It's probably way too early to say that," a high-ranking executive with one NFL team said. "Let's see how it plays out. Let's see how they both do when they get into the new stadium. But I guess it does make you start to think a little bit."

The league likewise is taking a long-term view.

"They knew going in this wasn't a one-game or one-year solution where they could turn a light on and get the support they expect to get moving toward the opening of the new [stadium]," Joe Lockhart, the NFL's executive vice president of communications and public affairs, said during a conference call with reporters this week. "We remain confident the city of Los Angeles can support two franchises and committed toward making that happen."

The \$2.6 billion stadium the Rams and Chargers will share in Inglewood, Calif., is scheduled to open in 2020. It is clear that in the meantime, the Rams and Chargers have work to do.

The owners voted in January 2016 to allow the Rams to move from St. Louis to L.A. and gave the Chargers the option to join them. Some within the sport thought that the option was granted as a consolation prize to Dean Spanos, the chairman of the Chargers, by owners who respected Spanos but preferred the Inglewood stadium proposal by Rams owner Stan Kroenke to the Carson project put forth by the Chargers and Oakland Raiders. The Chargers exercised their L.A. option in January of this year after failing to secure public funding for a new stadium in San Diego.

But was the NFL simply leaving San Diego because it could not secure a stadium solution there, rather than putting a second team in Los Angeles because it actually believed that was a good idea? It's an interesting question. Eric Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles, told "The Dan Patrick Show" this month that he would have been fine with the Chargers remaining in San Diego and the Rams being the lone L.A. franchise.

"We embrace any team that comes," Garcetti said in that radio interview. "We're certainly happy to have the Chargers in L.A. But I think we could have been happy with just one [team], too."

The Chargers have another chance this Sunday when they host the Kansas City Chiefs at StubHub. The biggest number to come out of that game won't be quarterback Philip Rivers's passing yardage or pass rusher Joey Bosa's sack total. It will be the attendance figure.

"We know going into this new market, it's going to take time to really authentically ingratiate yourself," John Spanos, the Chargers' president of football operations and a son of Dean Spanos, said in training camp this summer. "It's something that's going to take time. And that's something that we plan to do. And we also know that in an L.A. market, nothing's ever given to you."

"We don't show up expecting a red carpet, expecting anything to be given to us. We know that anything we gain, we have to earn. And so that's our approach. We have to work hard and earn the community's respect and earn their trust, and we look forward to doing that."

Daily News

Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom

By John Phillips

With supermajorities in both houses of the state Legislature, the governor's mansion and every statewide constitutional office on the ballot, there isn't much that California Democrats can't get if they want it badly enough.

In the most recent legislative session the state's ruling class voted to make California a sanctuary state, jacked up fuel and energy costs in the name of curbing global warming, and gutted the spirit of Megan's Law by allowing convicted sex offenders to get their name off the required registration list.

They even approved a measure that would designate the *Augustynolophus morrisi*, a duck-billed dinosaur that roamed California 66 million years ago, as the state's official dinosaur.

No word yet if 79-year-old Gov. Jerry Brown will resist the impulse to designate himself and sign it.

In the midst of all this, and without much fanfare, the state Legislature passed a bill that could have a serious impact on the 2020 presidential race.

Last Friday, Sacramento lawmakers voted to change the state's primary date from June to March, which would allocate California's massive number of delegates just after the nation's first contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The theory behind the move is that the nominees of both parties will likely be chosen before our traditional June primary, and this is the only way to get candidates to pay attention to our concerns.

In expressing his support for the change, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla told CNN, "By having an earlier voice for candidates of all parties, for that matter, would make the candidates pay attention to issues that Californians care about, like health care access, like environmental protection, like diversity — not just talking immigration issues but workforce issues."

The conventional spin is also that this would elevate the chances of a California Democrat winning the Democratic nomination, as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown have all been rumored to be mulling presidential bids.

Heck, even Congresswoman Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, has been spending time raising money and campaigning for fellow Democrats in New Hampshire, which, of course, is home to the first-in-the-nation primary — although to be fair she has always spent a lot of time outside of her district, she doesn't even live there.

But in their rush to get a California Democrat in the White House, I would warn Golden State lawmakers about the law of unintended consequences.

Because of smartphones, the internet and other forms of technology, the definition of what is "local" has changed

fundamental. The regionalism that used to exist in the country is not as pronounced as it used to be.

Let's not forget that Donald Trump beat U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in the 2016 Florida primary, and would have crushed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, had he stayed in the race. Also, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton easily defeated Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state of his birth, New York.

In my estimation, moving up the primary in the nation's most populated state would be most beneficial to a celebrity Democratic candidate. The Democratic field will likely be large and filled with a bunch of politicians that nobody has ever heard of. If a Michael Moore, Rosie O'Donnell, Tom Hanks or Alec Baldwin jumped in the race, they would instantly start out with a much higher name identification than some random governor or member of congress.

It would also create space for a bored billionaire, like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg or enviro-sugar daddy Tom Steyer to jump in and buy themselves relevance in the race.

Whether it's "March Madness" or "June gloom," the fact remains, the three Democrats who will not be helped by the date change are Eric Garcetti, Kamala Harris and Jerry Brown.

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We'll all pay price for California's tunnel vision on water policy

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Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED] Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 3:21 AM
To: Abigail Marquez <abigail.marquez@lacity.org>, Carolyn comcast [REDACTED], Carolyn Hissong [REDACTED], Cecilia Cabello home [REDACTED], Charles Small <charles.small@lacity.org>, David Ou <david.ou@lacity.org>, Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penara@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kelly Jones <kelly.jones@lacity.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Kylie Teller <Kylie.Teller@mayorsfundla.org>, Lynette Amerian [REDACTED], Marie DeAeth <Marie.DeAeth@mayorsfundla.org>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Omar Gonzales <omar.gonzales@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Ricardo Vasquez <ricardo.vazquez@lacity.org>, Tammy Barreras <tammy.barreras@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Eric Garcetti Talks About Transportation And Homelessness In Los Angeles

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The IOC Should Have Put History Aside And Given The 2024 Olympic Games To Los Angeles

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Even in a booming economy, LA City Hall faces daunting budget challenges

The Ringer

Eric Garcetti Talks About Transportation And Homelessness In Los Angeles

By Bill Simmons

On Monday, it was announced that the 2028 Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles, but not all Angelenos are pleased with the news. The event takes a structural and financial toll on its host cities, and while Los Angeles may be more prepared to shoulder this burden than most other cities across the world, Southern California likely won't escape unscathed. On the most recent episode of The Bill Simmons Podcast, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti talked about some of the city's most pressing issues and the plans to prepare the city for the Olympics.

Listen to the full podcast here. This transcript has been edited and condensed.

Bill Simmons: It's not all hunky-dory [in Los Angeles].

Eric Garcetti: It's not.

Simmons: I think the homelessness is as bad as it's been since I've been here.

Garcetti: No.1 in the country, unfortunately.

Simmons: The roads are in really bad shape. Traffic's bad still. ... I would just say those are the three biggest things right now and it seems like that crime is going up a bit.

Garcetti: Crime has leveled off. It's still the fifth- or sixth-safest year in 60 years.

Simmons: That's good.

Garcetti: And the increases have been in certain areas, it's actually tied into, I think, tied to homelessness as we've had a lot of people come out of the criminal justice system. Everybody doesn't want people locked away for 20 years for having a gram of something too much. But the savings that were supposed to go to the street to catch them when they got out early isn't there. So I've been frustrated because these folks are coming out. It's cheaper to get high than to get drunk. They're living in tents. Skid row and other places and we're not serving them, we're serving us. But the nice thing on traffic and homelessness, which are my top two priorities, the voters, the same election that changed the presidency, passed the biggest initiatives in both of those in American history. So that money's just starting to come in and people are like, "Why isn't it solved today?" It takes a minute. But over, it'll be, let's see, \$4 billion for homelessness over the next 10 years to build housing and give mental health services and the whole anti-addiction stuff. And then on public transportation, we're building 15 new rapid transit lines in L.A.

Simmons: Wow.

Garcetti: And that was approved by voters. So everything from Elon Musk, who we're working with on new tunneling technology to speed it up, to, as we talked about, bringing public transportation to the airport and downtown. It'll be a pretty transformed city. And Uber and Lyft were just the beginning. Connected cars is probably the quickest way to resolve traffic. Because when you think about it, a car about 95 percent of the time isn't moving. So the idea you have to own your car then park it someplace, which is valuable real estate but takes away the city's green space, increases the price of rents and stuff. L.A. is going to be a pretty transformed place and I think we're going to lead the way. So no question we're no. 1 in traffic, no. 1 in homelessness, but I think those are crowns we can lose.

Simmons: The carpool stuff seems like everybody can be better at that.

Garcetti: The carpool stuff, think about it. The old model of carpool was try to work it out so you and I are going to the same place coincidentally and we can do that every single day. The new one is essentially car share.

Simmons: Yeah, car sharing I guess is a better way to put it.

Garcetti: And the technology too ... I don't think autonomous vehicles, fully autonomous in complicated cities, are right around the corner. But interconnected ones are. So you know that frustration on the freeway of, I don't see an accident, but why is everybody stopping and going—if we just all hit the accelerator at the same time, we'd go. When traffic is at its peak, which is only about 10 percent of the day, 95 percent of the streets don't have a car on top of it. So it's just inefficient space. We think we're closer to the cars, we're stopping and going, but once cars are connected to each other and can be a foot away and never hit each other, that's almost like doubling your capacity. So we have the money to do this. I want L.A. to be the first big city in America to test that stuff. And like I said, it takes a minute. Nobody's saying tomorrow it's going to be no traffic, but think about Carmageddon. Everybody said it was going to be the worst ever —

Simmons: That was the best weekend ever to drive in the history of L.A.

Garcetti: It was! Because you take a few people off the roads ... You get like 5, 10 percent of people off the roads and it flows.

Simmons: It was great. I was flying!

Garcetti: So part of it is changing behavior, and if need be, it is also, in the future, charging people for the roads they use. So if everybody knew they'd have to pay more to come into the city every single day —

Simmons: That's a good idea

Garcetti:—we would figure out ways to do car share more often so three or four people would come in from the Antelope Valley to downtown to their jobs.

Simmons: The 110 is fun with that because you put the little thing on your dashboard —

Garcetti: Yeah, the transponder

Simmons:—and you can fly through.

Garcetti: Yeah. And we're gonna do more of those lanes which people really like. So there's good things in the future but no question right now, that's the toughest part of living in L.A.

LA Times

Editorial: The Olympics could be a boon for Los Angeles but it's foolish to think we can't lose

Los Angeles scored a major victory this week by securing both the right to host the 2028 Summer Olympic Games and concessions from the International Olympic Committee worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Mayor Eric Garcetti and the city's Olympic committee officials get credit for extracting a better deal from the IOC in exchange for agreeing to wait an additional four years and let Paris host the 2024 Games.

As Garcetti correctly points out, the city (not to mention the region, state and nation) has much to gain in terms of direct and indirect economic benefits, infrastructure improvements and goodwill from hosting the Games. But it would be foolish for city leaders to assume that L.A. just can't lose, as Garcetti and other Olympics boosters have asserted. Of course it can. There are no guarantees when it comes to ticket sales, sponsorship deals or labor and materials costs for an event more than a decade away. And because the IOC refuses to share the risk of cost overruns, host cities are on the hook for any budget-busting developments.

Ideally, Garcetti would have insisted that the IOC protect the city from cost overruns in exchange for accepting the later date. But the city's experience with the 1984 Summer Games suggests that the window for negotiations hasn't fully closed. In the run-up to the '84 Games, public concern about the potential for a taxpayer bailout led voters to approve a ballot measure that threatened to withdraw L.A. as host unless the IOC reduced the city's risk. That's what led the IOC to waive the requirement that L.A. shoulder all unanticipated costs.

If they're done well, the Games can pay economic and civic dividends long after any Olympic-sized traffic jams are cleared.

Regardless, city leaders need to start working now to make sure the \$5.3-billion project doesn't turn into a boondoggle over the coming 11 years. Before committing the city's treasury to such a massive undertaking, city leaders must also commit themselves and their successors to vigilant oversight. That responsibility begins as soon as next week, when the L.A. City Council is expected to take up the new host city contract. Council members must make sure that all the promises made by the IOC are in the document before the deal is finalized in Lima, Peru, on Sept. 13.

The city — and the public — must scrutinize the financial assumptions and projections of the nonprofit group acting as the local Olympic organizers. The point is to detect and respond to problems as they emerge, not after they become irreparable.

That said, the mayor and L.A. Olympic committee officials appear to have done as much as possible under the circumstances to insulate the city from financial disaster. The budget has a reserve of \$487 million, and the state had agreed to kick in \$250 million to help pay for any shortfall in 2024. The new 2028 deal mitigates the risk even further by cutting some costs and finding new revenues.

Los Angeles also starts out with a crucial advantage over other hosts: It doesn't have to spend billions of dollars building anything. The plan is to use fields, arenas and other facilities that already exist or are scheduled to be built soon with private dollars. The one big-ticket item in the city's original proposal — a \$1-billion Olympic village to be constructed near downtown — was dropped in favor of a more prudent arrangement to house athletes in UCLA's new dorms.

Some Angelenos might wonder why the city should bother putting on something that promises inconvenience at best and a costly taxpayer burden at worst. The answer is that if they're done well, the Games can pay economic and civic dividends long after any Olympic-sized traffic jams are cleared. This means more federal funding sooner for infrastructure improvements, an influx of private investment, and spruced-up streets, parks and public spaces. This particular deal also means an immediate \$160 million investment in youth sports. That may sound like small change, but to the many kids who don't play sports because their parents can't afford sign-up fees as high as \$150, it could be life-changing.

There are also the intangible benefits of being part of a global, historic tradition — one of the few extant — that brings the entire world to your city. It can be a thrilling experience for Angelenos and their children, while selling the city to the millions who attend or watch the events from afar.

The 1984 Games turned out to be a financial success, doing more good for its host city than any Summer Games since then. L.A. may not be able to top that in 2028, but with luck and diligence it could host a world-class Olympic Games that leaves the city proud, not racked with buyer's remorse.

Fox and Hound

Congratulations To Los Angeles!

By Gary Toebben

Mayor Eric Garcetti made a once in a generation announcement — the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games are coming back to Los Angeles for the third time.

Two and a half years after losing the United States Olympic Committee's bid selection to another U.S. city, the determination and creativity of the Mayor and local Olympic leadership have solidified an agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to stage the 2028 Games here in L.A.

The Chamber and LA 2024 (now renamed LA 2028) recently commissioned the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University to survey L.A. residents' opinion on holding the 2028 Games. An overwhelming majority, 83 percent, want Los Angeles to host, with 54 percent in "strong" support. The most frequently cited reason was the economic boost to Southern California.

In agreeing to let Paris host the 2024 Games and accepting the 2028 Games, Mayor Garcetti and the LA 2024

of \$2 billion from the IOC, as well as the IOC's commitment to waive their cut of any surplus generated by the Olympics. The agreement also includes an interest free loan upfront, which will inject millions of dollars now into youth sports programs.

I have been so proud to serve on the LA 2024 Board of Directors with other local business, civic and sports leaders, and I look forward to our transition in preparation for the 2028 Olympics. Congratulations to Mayor Garcetti, the City Council, Casey Wasserman, Gene Sykes and all of L.A. The 1984 Olympic Games left a legacy in Los Angeles that is still felt over three decades later. I have no doubt that this agreement and the 2028 Olympic Games will do the same.

Sports Illustrated

The IOC Should Have Put History Aside And Given The 2024 Olympic Games To Los Angeles

By Ethan Brady

Monday's deal between Los Angeles and the International Olympic Committee to give the city hosting rights for the 2028 Summer Games was not unexpected. L.A. and Paris both bid for the 2024 Games, but Paris became a favorite for the earlier slot. Los Angeles reportedly sought concessions before it agreed to wait four more years—the deal with the IOC included \$1.8 billion, part of which will be paid in advance to increase participation in youth sports in L.A.

Just days before the decision, Mayor of L.A. Eric Garcetti said in an interview with BuzzFeed that L.A. has always been good for “rebooting” the Olympic brand. It sounded like a last-ditch case for L.A.'s hosting sooner rather than later.

And he's right: L.A. would have been the better host for the Summer Games in 2024. Unlike Paris, it's geared in exactly the direction that the IOC wants—and needs—to go: toward young people. The IOC has stated that it wants to attract this demographic. It added karate, sport climbing and three-on-three basketball to the Tokyo Games in 2020, and it started an Olympic Channel to connect with audiences on social media.

Los Angeles represents the excitement of these new additions. It's a young city with an Olympic bid that the evaluation committee called “dynamic and futuristic” in its final report last month. The city will host events in existing facilities like the Coliseum and the Rose Bowl, which played host to the financially successful 1984 Games. The report also praised the bid for integrating cycling races and the marathon throughout the city in order to maximize the number of spectators.

This is a stark difference from Paris, which presented a bid the committee saw as heritage-focused, calling it “historic, cultural and iconic.” Paris wants to turn the River Seine, which snakes past icons like the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, into its own Olympic Park. The Seine, though, is currently too dirty to hold open-water events. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo pledged in 2015 that the Seine would be swimmable by 2024. But it's unclear if that goal will be met in time, considering a previous mayor's vow in 1988 to clean the river by 1994 was never fulfilled.

Indeed, Paris 2024 will be the centennial of the VIII Olympiad in Paris, providing an extra level of sentimental value. That was the first Games to feature an Olympic Village. But by highlighting the centennial as a key component of Paris's bid, the IOC is placing a strong emphasis on the past at a time when it wants to be reaching out to new audiences of the future. The IOC wasn't concerned about 100-year anniversaries during the 1996 bidding process, when Athens, home of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, lost out to Atlanta. In fact, this will be the first centennial Games in history. The IOC made a big gamble by choosing to celebrate the past rather than expand its viewership, and it may not pay off.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of this process is the way the decision was handled. Instead of waiting until September for the scheduled vote by the 95 members of the IOC representing 67 countries, a handful of officials worked out a deal with L.A. representatives behind the scenes. The deciding factor in L.A.'s concession was a \$1.8 billion check. That certainly doesn't reverse the image of the Olympics as a corrupt political body.

All that said, make no mistake: the IOC lucked out in securing both cities hosts over the next decade. “It is truly a tale of two great Olympic cities,” said Patrick Baumann, a Swiss basketball executive and the chairman of the evaluation committee. But Paris represents the Olympic past and Los Angeles the future. The Olympics has one priority: spreading its message to new fans. And though the City of Lights will likely stage a historic Summer Games, history wasn't the right thing to focus on. The City of Angels was the one best positioned to begin a new Olympic era—as Mayor Garcetti said at a news conference yesterday, it will “return the Olympic legacy to what it's all about.” Sadly, that will have to wait 11 years.

Boston Globe

As LA gets Olympics, there's unfinished business for Boston

The fanfare this week around the selection of Los Angeles as host of the 2028 Summer Olympics provides a taste of what Boston lost when it abandoned its bid for the Games in 2015. Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles announced the agreement Monday, which, if ratified by the Los Angeles City Council and the US Olympic Committee board in August, would make LA a three-time Olympic city after hosting the games in 1932 and 1984. That's cause for congratulations. In Paris, a likely host for the 2024 Olympics, officials gave LA a hearty “mission accomplie” but said talks on any Paris Games would continue throughout August. The final vote of the International Olympic Committee is scheduled for Sept. 13, in Lima.

As a chance for a city to strut before a world audience, the Olympic Games have no parallel. London 2012 helped reinforce London's transformation from a fusty imperial capital to a multicultural global crossroads. The opportunity to move Boston beyond gangster films and Freedom Trail platitudes, and reintroduce the nation's oldest big city as the educational and research powerhouse it has become, was a key part of the appeal of the failed 2024 Olympics bid. The proposal for a walkable Olympics would have left an enduring imprint on the city's physical form, and held out the promise of bringing together disparate and sometimes fractious communities and neighborhoods through the transformative power of sports. The eventual decision to award the 2024 Games to Paris, while a disappointment for Boston, is a testament to the city's long history of being a world-class destination.

place as the American entry — also suggests a positive turn for the IOC, a signal that it wants to win back the favor of Western democracies. If Boston's bid had proceeded, it surely would have prevailed.

The challenge now for Boston is to rekindle and redirect the civic energy that the Olympics bid unleashed. Sure, Boston 2024 stirred up discord. But the Olympics bid foundered prematurely, subsumed by early PR mistakes that allowed NIMBYism to take root. Yet the effort also touched off a much-needed civic dialogue about the city's built environment and its transportation infrastructure.

Although much of that discussion has abated, the forward-looking planning and commitments that the Olympics might have spurred can be addressed in the 2017 mayoral campaign. One example: The plan that was on the table at the time the bid was scrapped would have turned Widett Circle into a new neighborhood, by constructing a massive deck over the railroad tracks there. It was a transformative idea then, and remains one now. For Boston, the Games also offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to galvanize investments in housing and transportation; to modernize the MBTA; to complete an Emerald Necklace that was supposed to reach Dorchester Bay; to resolve, at long last, the traffic horrors of Kosciuszko Circle.

Fortunately, Mayor Walsh's new Imagine Boston 2030 planning blueprint addresses some of the same needs that the Olympics might have. That plan calls for developing Widett Circle, and, like the Olympics plan, for greening Columbia Road. The test will be whether the city can implement those plans without the hard deadline the Olympics would have provided.

Los Angeles, which has hosted the Summer Games twice and will mostly use existing facilities in 2028, was well poised to take advantage when talks in Boston broke down. In its agreement with the country's second-largest city, the IOC also implicitly acknowledged the benefit of sweetening the pot for host communities. For 2028, the IOC has also agreed to give Los Angeles an immediate \$180 million advance, which is expected to cover the organizing committee's costs and rejuvenate youth sports programs with new funds.

By passing on the Olympics, Boston likely lost its chance to host the world's biggest sporting event for at least a generation. But maybe someday a different IOC will be able to come to terms with a future Boston, and give the world a better, smarter, more inspiring Games than what we might have had in 2024.

The Recorder

Behind The Bid: How Lawyers Brought The Olympics Back To LA

By Todd Cunningham

Eleven years is a long time to wait for anything, but the legal team behind Los Angeles' bid for the 2028 Summer Games, which was blessed by the International Olympic Committee this week, has given every indication that it can go the distance.

"I thought two years—the time between us getting the domestic bid and waiting for the final word—seemed like all the time in the world," said Jon Oram, a top transactional attorney and partner at Proskauer Rose, who served as counsel to the Los Angeles Olympic Bid Committee.

That was in August 2015, but he'd actually come aboard more than a year before that, at the behest of Casey Wasserman, the chairman and driving force behind LA's Olympic bid. Oram had come to know the founder of the fast-rising Wasserman Media Group while at Proskauer, a powerhouse in sports law, and offered to help.

Today Oram, Brian Nelson, general counsel to the bid committee, and LA City Deputy Counsel Manav Kumar are focusing their efforts on the U.S. Olympic Committee and Los Angeles City Council, which in roughly two weeks will be asked to give its approval to LA serving as host of its third Olympics. With Mayor Eric Garcetti leading the charge on LA's bid that would seem a slam dunk, but ...

"We're lawyers," Oram said. "We need to follow through."

That sort of relentless tenacity earlier made him a rising star in the legal world, pushing through the 2011 sales of Major League Baseball's Houston Astros and the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars, both of which he'd represented for more than four years. He also helped MLB outlast Frank McCourt's effort to retain possession of the Los Angeles Dodgers via bankruptcy that same year.

That determination also came in handy in the summer of 2015, when the U.S. Olympic Committee dropped the bid of Boston, its original choice over LA, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., as the city it would put forward to host the 2024 Summer Games to the International Olympic Committee. A storm of public outcry over the use of taxpayers' money and polls showing most Boston residents did not want the games forced its hand.

"We think Los Angeles gives us our best chance," USOC president Scott Blackmun told reporters when he announced Boston's replacement, citing the city's proven ability to run a profitable Olympics, an existing infrastructure of stadiums and arenas, and the overwhelming backing—88 percent, according to one poll—of Angelenos.

"We basically had to rip up our plan and start again," Oram said. But this time, he'd have some help. The first hire was Nelson, the former U.S. Justice Department general counsel, a fellow alum of Yale Law School. City attorney Kumar was also from Yale. But they weren't together because they knew the words to "Bulldog," the Eli fight song.

"Our skills are complementary," Oram said. "I'm a transactional lawyer, so my background is in sponsorships, venue agreements, corporate governance. Brian handles government relations at the city, state and federal level, as well as everything from labor issues to intellectual property protection." Kumar worked with the Garcetti administration, and the mayor's counsel, Rich Llewellyn, advising the city from legal perspective, along with City Attorney Mike Feuer, whose office reviewed all of the key documents.

Arenas and stadiums were leased, contractors and vendors were signed up and all was on track for 2024. But around May of this year the IOC, juggling strong pitches from Paris and LA, decided that it would go with Paris for 2024.

came at once. By June, the unprecedented decision was made, and this week it became official: Paris would host in 2024 and LA, which had shown more willingness to wait, was chosen for 2028.

The LA bid sets the cost of staging the games at \$5.3 billion, lean by modern Olympic standards thanks in large part to utilizing Staples Center, LA Memorial Coliseum and Rose Bowl as venues, University of Southern California as the media center and housing the athletes at University of California, Los Angeles. It counts on tickets sales and sponsorships to offset the bulk of that, but most of the contracts to utilize those venues and the sponsorship deals had been completed in preparation for 2024 and will have to be reworked.

With the venue deals, ad agreements, housing, security and transportation pacts added in, several hundred—"I don't think we're at a thousand," Nelson said—contracts and other agreements will have to be reviewed and updated. Some hotel and billboard deals are being reworked now, but those pacts won't become a primary focus of the legal team until after the USOC signs off and the IOC finalizes the city's bid at a September session set for Lima, Peru.

"All the positive feedback we've received from the various vendors and partners with whom we have contracts has been really gratifying," said Nelson, who doesn't anticipate serious problems. In fact, he thinks that there are projects and programs outside of the actual games—such as the ongoing expansion of the LA subway system, and improving access to city youth sports—that might benefit the most from the extra time.

Garcetti said Monday that as much as \$160 million of the money advanced to the committee to help sustain it for the extra four years could go to youth sports.

"The additional time will enable us to do more for those programs and better leverage our sponsors to help as well, in a fashion that is sustainable and economically and environmentally sound," Nelson said. "We be able to spend more time inviting the community to participate, and let them see that while the games will come and go, the local benefits will continue for years."

Oram sounded confident that whatever the challenge, it would be met by his team, which also included Sigal Mandelker, who was confirmed as under secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence in June; LA2028 deputy general counsel and corporate specialist Tanja Olano; Heidi A. Lawson of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo; and LA2028 attorneys Anna Schmitz and Jared Schott.

Several of his Proskauer colleagues joined Oram, including partner and tax specialist Amanda Nussbaum, Nancy Sher Cohen (litigation), Anthony DiBenedetto (labor), Bowon Koh (tax), as well as corporate attorneys Sean Alford, Sally Bradley, Erica Esposito, Christine Lazatin and Krista Whitaker.

"This is a young and tremendously talented team with a lot of energy," he said. "We might not have a lot of Olympic experience, so we might do things a little differently, but we've asked advice and gotten it done."

There is no lack of legal expertise to call upon. The board of directors includes Ron Olson, a founding partner of Munger, Tolles & Olson, who oversaw audits for the committee; former California State Treasurer Kathleen Brown, a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips; and Mike Lenard, vice president of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Another committee member, David Ulich, a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton and president of the Foundation for Global Sports Development, was nominated for an Emmy last week for researching and co-producing the documentary "Munich '72 and Beyond."

The all-star legal lineup even has a bench waiting in the wings, and it includes film czar Ken Ziffren, co-founder of Ziffren Brittenham, and Kelly Crabb, a partner Sheppard Mullin who has worked on four different Olympics, was the lead counsel for China's Beijing Games in 2008 and handled the broadcast rights agreements for the 2012 London Games.

Nelson said the legal team and committee all felt they were poised at a moment in sporting history and no one was shrinking.

"We are all aware of the power of the Olympics and want to use it on behalf of the community, this region and this nation," Nelson said. "We want to show the country what a uniting force the Olympics can be in these extremely fraught political times."

Variety

Los Angeles Based Pilot Production Slides 14% To Seven Year Low

By Dave McNary

Television pilots shot in Los Angeles during the 2016-17 development cycle declined by 14% to 68 shows — a seven-year low — according to an annual survey by the film-permitting agency FilmL.A.

FilmL.A. president Paul Audley told Variety that the decline is due to the changing dynamics of the TV industry, with the streaming services Netflix and Amazon providing more programming that results in a lessening of the overall volume of pilot production.

"Despite this year's smaller crop of pilots, Los Angeles' television industry is robust," Audley said. "With so many projects under way, California is home to more scripted series than its top five competitors combined."

FilmL.A. reported on Wednesday that an overall total of 173 broadcast, cable, and digital pilots (109 dramas, 64 comedies) were produced during the 2016-17 development cycle, while the previous three cycles saw 201, 202, and 203 pilots in each season. Of those 173 pilots, a total of 68 projects (22 dramas, 46 comedies) were filmed in the Los Angeles region, down from 79 in 2015-16, 91 in 2014-15, and 90 in 2013-14.

Pilots shot in Los Angeles for the most recent season include "A.P. Bio," "Alone Together," "Amy's Brother," "Atypical," "Brothered Up," "Brown Girls," "Champions," "College-ish," "Disjointed," "Distefano," "Forever Boys," "Charlie Foxtrot," "For the People," "American Woman," "Behind Enemy Lines," "Counterpart," "Good Girls," "Hannah Royce's Questionable Choices," "Heathers," "Here Now," "Law & Order True Crime: The Menendez Murders," "Marvel's Runaways," "Mayans

MC "The Grillo," "Rebel," "S.W.A.T.," "Shameless," "The Bachelor," "The Mindy Project," "The Normal Heart," "The

Unscripted. The murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G., "Untitled Kourtney Kang," and "Get Shorty." FilmL.A. estimated on Wednesday that the 68 L.A.-based pilot projects yielded \$303 million in production spending. It also said that the share of overall pilot production by project count remained unchanged for Greater Los Angeles at 39%. Los Angeles saw 79 pilots shot in the region in 2015-16, compared with 24 in New York, 21 in Vancouver/British Columbia, 12 in Atlanta/Georgia, and nine in Toronto/Ontario.

The report also noted that the overall industry saw a total of 65 network, cable, and digital shows ordered straight-to-series in the 2016-17 cycle, including 29 in cable, 27 in digital networks, and nine in broadcast networks.

"When it comes to television, L.A. production has never been stronger," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "This report demonstrates that L.A. is still the place to shoot, whether you're producing pilots or series. And as a former actress, I am well aware of how many jobs each and every one of those episodes generates."

FilmL.A. also reported 173 series currently in production in California, out of a total of 426. That includes 62 L.A.-based drama series, 30 of which received the California Film & Television Tax Credit, which was expanded two years ago. The agency estimated that California-based incentivized series will spend an estimated \$1.72 billion during the present season.

"If you grew up in Detroit, someone on your block worked for a car manufacturer or owned a business where autoworkers spent their paychecks. Here in L.A., the same goes for our entertainment industry — it's the bedrock of our middle class," noted Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

"Today's report further demonstrates the importance of our California Film and Television Tax Credit, which is keeping production where it belongs — in Los Angeles — and making our city home to more scripted television than its top competitors combined," he said. "We're hearing a lot of good news from the entertainment industry, but we have to keep investing in our middle class — and that means restoring our market share of pilot production."

Garcetti told the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on July 20 that he will push for an increase in California's production tax incentives to at least \$500 million annually — up more than 50% from the current \$330 million figure. The current program runs out after the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Hollywood Reporter

Los Angeles TV Production Dips In 2016-2017 Season

By Brynn Sandberg

Los Angeles remains the top place for TV production.

According to a newly released report from FilmL.A., the nonprofit film office, 173 broadcast, cable and digital pilots — 109 dramas and 64 comedies — were produced during the 2016-17 development cycle, more than two dozen fewer than the previous year.

Out of those 173 pilots, a total of 68 projects — 22 dramas and 46 comedies — were filmed in the Los Angeles region, yielding an estimated \$303 million in production spending. Despite a slight drop in overall pilots produced since last year, the city's share of overall pilot production by project count remains steady at 39 percent.

"Despite this year's smaller crop of pilots, Los Angeles' television industry is robust," FilmL.A. president Paul Audley said Wednesday in a statement. "With so many projects underway, California is home to more scripted series than its top five competitors combined."

After Los Angeles, the top competitors for pilot production in 2015-16 included New York (with 24 projects), Vancouver (21 projects), Atlanta (12 projects) and Toronto (nine projects).

FilmL.A.'s report, which also examines straight-to-series show orders and digital pilot projects in production, reveals that a total of 65 network, cable and digital shows were ordered straight-to-series in the 2016-17 cycle. Cable networks put 29 shows into production, while digital networks launched 27 shows and broadcast networks launched nine shows straight-to-series.

"When it comes to television, L.A. production has never been stronger," added Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "This report demonstrates that L.A. is still the place to shoot, whether you're producing pilots or series. And as a former actress, I am well aware of how many jobs each and every one of those episodes generates."

By FilmL.A.'s count, there are 173 series currently in production in California out of 426 sampled series currently in production across network, cable and digital distribution channels. That number includes 62 Los Angeles-based drama series, 30 of which receive tax incentives from the state. Altogether, California-based incentivized series will spend an estimated \$1.72 billion during the present season.

"If you grew up in Detroit, someone on your block worked for a car manufacturer or owned a business where autoworkers spent their paychecks. Here in L.A., the same goes for our entertainment industry — it's the bedrock of our middle class," noted Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Today's report further demonstrates the importance of our California Film and Television Tax Credit, which is keeping production where it belongs — in Los Angeles — and making our city home to more scripted television than its top competitors combined. We're hearing a lot of good news from the entertainment industry, but we have to keep investing in our middle class — and that means restoring our market share of pilot production."

The Desert Sun

Company's plan to sell Mojave Desert groundwater opposed by LA water officials

By Ian James

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is opposing a company's proposal to pump groundwater in the Mojave Desert and sell it to Southern California cities.

The L.A. water utility's board weighed in against the project on Tuesday, recommending to Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council that they support a bill in the state Legislature requiring California to review the environmental impacts of the proposal.

"We feel that the risks to the desert don't justify whatever profits or potential jobs might be gained from taking water out of this important desert aquifer," LADWP Board President Mel Levine said after the meeting. He said he brought the matter before the board to point out the project's "very serious risks to every component of the environment in the Mojave Desert."

Cadiz Inc. aims to pump as much as 16.3 billion gallons of groundwater per year on land surrounded by Mojave Trails National Monument about 75 miles northeast of Palm Springs.

Conservation groups say if the company is allowed to draw down the aquifer, it would threaten natural springs and wildlife in the heart of the Mojave Desert.

Cadiz disagrees, saying the project wouldn't harm the environment in any way.

State Assemblymember Laura Friedman, D-Glendale, last month introduced a bill that would establish additional requirements for the project to proceed.

The legislation, AB 1000, targets Cadiz by requiring state regulators to review projects that would transfer groundwater away from desert lands in the vicinity of national monuments, national preserves and other protected spaces. The State Lands Commission, working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, would be tasked with ensuring that the transfer "will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat," of protected lands nearby.

The bill was passed by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in a 7-2 vote on July 11. It's slated to go next before the Senate Appropriations Committee, and then on to the full Senate.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has long fought the Cadiz project in Washington, sent a letter to Levine ahead of Tuesday's meeting urging LADWP to support the bill in Sacramento. She said Cadiz's proposal would "irrevocably harm the Mojave Desert."

"The Cadiz water extraction project proposal illustrates why state protections of desert groundwater basins are so critical at this time," Feinstein said in the letter. "Supporting projects like Cadiz is not supporting smart water infrastructure or sound science. It's putting private profit over public lands that belong to all Californians."

Levine and the other commissioners decided to send a letter to Garcetti and the City Council urging them to support AB 1000. They also agreed to recommend that L.A.'s representatives on the board of the larger Metropolitan Water District of Southern California continue to oppose the Cadiz project.

At their next meeting in two weeks, Levine said the LADWP board will vote on a resolution formalizing their opposition to the project.

Courtney Degener, Cadiz's vice president of communications, said the commissioners' recommendation was made without "fair notice" and without an official briefing by the project's proponents.

"We only learned late yesterday that the Commission would discuss the project and AB 1000 and that was via a tweet from an opposition group, not LADWP," Degener said in an emailed statement. "The verbal staff report provided did not accurately inform the Commission of the scientific, engineering, environmental, financial or legal aspects of the project."

"It is disappointing that a public agency would conduct so unfair and biased a process for a project that will safely provide water for 400,000 people," Degener said.

She said that the company hopes to "have an opportunity to properly brief" the LADWP board before its next meeting. "If properly informed we don't believe the City of Los Angeles will support AB 1000 or share the Commission's position."

Degener said Friedman's bill "establishes a terrible precedent for all projects and as a result has already garnered the opposition of more than 50 California organizations."

A list of the bill's opponents includes 18 water agencies and organizations, from the East Orange County Water District to the Mojave Water Agency, as well as the Southern California Association of Governments, cities, business associations and labor groups.

Cadiz owns 34,000 acres in the desert along Route 66 in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys, close to the Mojave National Preserve, and is proposing to build a 43-mile pipeline alongside a railroad line to send the water to Southern California cities. Railroad tracks run near Cadiz Inc. The company proposes to build a water pipeline alongside the railroad. (Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)

While pursuing its plan to sell water, the Los Angeles-based company has been running its wells to irrigate nearly 2,000 acres of farmland, growing lemons, grapes, raisins and other crops.

Cadiz's proposal was temporarily stymied during the Obama administration when Interior Department officials said the proposed pipeline wasn't within the rights originally granted to the railroad in 1875 and would require an additional permit. But that hurdle was apparently removed earlier this year when President Donald Trump's administration announced a related policy change, scrapping guidelines that detail how federal officials are supposed to evaluate uses of public lands alongside railroads.

RELATED: Will a federal policy change help this company sell Mojave Desert water?

Opponents of the project have also voiced concerns about the appointment of David Bernhardt as deputy Interior secretary. Bernhardt, who was confirmed by the Senate last month, is a partner and shareholder — along with Cadiz CEO Scott Slater — in the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, which in turn owns shares in Cadiz.

Levine, an attorney and former Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives, is a partner in the law firm.

California desert has long been important to him. He sponsored desert protection legislation while in the House prior to the 1994 approval of Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act, which turned Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments into national parks and created the Mojave National Preserve.

Levine said he had heard about Cadiz's proposal intermittently for many years but didn't think it was likely to go anywhere until the Trump administration began signaling support.

"Basically it's our collective view and my personal view that we have an administration in Washington that is hell-bent on compromising the environment," Levine said. "Fortunately, we have state and local leaders such as Mayor Garcetti and Gov. Brown who are committed to state and local action to protect our environment, and we wanted to go on record supporting that type of environmental protection in the context of a project such as Cadiz that we feel is likely to do, as Sen. Feinstein said, irreparable harm to the desert."

Levine said he and other commissioners received comments ahead of their discussion from people on both sides of the debate.

David Lamfrom, the National Parks Conservation Association's desert director, praised the LADWP board for taking the position that the Cadiz project isn't consistent with L.A.'s sustainability efforts, saying they "took powerful action today to defend precious California desert water resources" for communities, wildlife and protected areas.

"I think they're sending a really clear signal – to water districts, to Sacramento, to the governor, to the mayor," Lamfrom said. "If you're a company who's trying to sell water, to have one of the nation's largest water districts telling you that they have no confidence in you or your product or your intentions is a really serious thing."

Curbed

Biking in Los Angeles: A Q & A with the former head of LACBC

By Bianca Barragan

Projects tied to the city of Los Angeles's Vision Zero program are sparking clashes from Playa del Rey to Northeast Los Angeles. Vision Zero aims to end traffic deaths in the LA—the nation's deadliest city for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, passengers, and motorcyclists.

It's the program's methods, not its goals, that are dividing Angelenos. Under the plan, lanes dedicated to cars have been removed to slow down traffic (speed is a proven factor in roadway deaths) and to make room for bike lanes, pitting drivers against pedestrians and bike safety advocates.

Tamika Butler, who just departed her post as the executive director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, has had firsthand experience trying to bring the needs and interests of Angelenos who ride bikes to the forefront.

Curbed spoke to Butler about biking, issues faced by people who bike, her new role as executive director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, and how to continue to make LA a fun, safe, healthy place for all residents—regardless of how they get around. The conversation was edited for length and clarity.

You're a big promoter of equity in biking and transportation. What does that look like? Are there examples we could see in play today?

For me, when we talk about equity, if you have to simplify it—which I hate doing, because it is complicated—but if you have to simplify it, it's making sure those who have had the least, get the most.

I think that's really uncomfortable for people, because it sometimes means that those who have had the most aren't going to get as much. And in their mind, they think it means they're giving something up.

I don't identify as a cyclist. I identify as a person who loves to ride my bike. The more we think about that—that these are people on bikes—hopefully drivers will see those people.

When I first joined the Bike Coalition, I remember going to my first bike summit and going to a panel with people from the bike industry who were talking about marketing to women—how they market differently to women, why it's important to market to women, why we need more women riding bikes, and for women to seeing themselves in marketing materials. And I remember sitting in the crowd and hearing the hispers from some of the men in the room, and also a little bit on social media, how it was sexist that this panel even existed. For me, not coming from the bike world, that experience was kind of this rude awakening.

I realized that this is a world filled with a lot of straight white men who have been relatively privileged in different ways in their life, and for them, being a cyclist and identifying as a cyclist is something that is really important. It's something that is part of their core identity, and for many of them, in their opinion, it is the way they've been oppressed.

And so to even start to have a conversation with them about why even identifying as a cyclist isn't the most inclusive, to get from there to to equity has always been a stretch.

Why don't you like the term "cyclist"?

I'm not a cyclist. I don't identify as a cyclist. I identify as a person who loves to ride my bike. The more we think about that—that these are people on bikes—hopefully the more drivers will see those people as grandmas and mothers and kids trying to to school. Is it going to solve all the problems? No. But sometimes folks put those labels on us, and it helps make us less than a person, just a cyclist.

You came to LACBC toward the end of 2014, and July 14 was your last official day on the job. In that time, how have you seen biking change and improve in LA?

If you look at the pictures from that most recent meeting about the street improvements in Mar Vista, it was a packed house, and it wasn't just people who bike. It was our friends, it was family members, it was grandmas, it was folks in the Vision Zero Alliance with us. The visibility of people who bike and the sheer numbers have increased.

I think one of the hardest parts about me leaving is that, when you leave something, you like to sit back and think about

And maybe with some time, some reflection, and a little bit of vacation I'll be able to do that. But right now, I think when we have the last two weeks like we've had with Mar Vista, when folks are talking about the fact that a few extra minutes on a commute might be more important than lives, you really wonder if things have changed.

What do you think happened there?

When you dig deeper into these incidents of "bikelash," what keeps coming up for folks is, that they say, "We want everybody to be safe, but where's the community engagement? When did folks talk to us?"

That's another thing that really ties to that equity point. Our government agencies or our nonprofits need to ask: Are we getting better at community engagement? I think we'd be hard-pressed to say we're not getting better, but have we figured it out? Have we cracked the code? I don't know that we have.

A lot of the work you've done has been expanding the discussion beyond bikes at the Bicycle Coalition.

Especially for bike advocates, there has been this need to singularly focus on bicycling. I totally get it. I talk to folks who have been doing this way longer than me, who have more battle scars, and what I've heard is no one cared about biking. So many of the folks who started this work, or started biking even, did it as something that wasn't mainstream, and there was a lot of pride in that identity. But I think many movements struggle with transitioning from being the outsider to saying, "Hey, we're like everybody else!" And do you even want to do that?

I think bicycle advocacy has struggled with that. What's our message? Who are we? What makes us unique? What makes us the same? What are we working for?

Again, this is something that happens when a movement matures. As someone who's black, I think there are some folks who are a little older, who were part of the Civil Rights movement, who don't understand Black Lives Matter. There are different tactics and different ways of doing things.

What's been the response to expanding the discussion?

That's what I've gotten the most pushback about, the most harassment about, the most bullying about.

The issue is that the folks who have been the most vile and aggressive in their pushback think we're talking about these other issues instead of biking. But we're not.

One of my pet peeves is when people say that the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's mission was to make LA County a safe, healthy, and fun place to bike.

The mission didn't change. We've just had to realize that if you want LA County to be that safe, healthy, fun place, the people who are riding bikes have to be able to afford to live here. They have to have affordable housing.

If they're homeless and they're worried about where they're going to sleep at night, then they're not going to be in a place where biking is fun, healthy, and safe.

If they're riding for fun, not transportation, and they want a bike path or a nice park to ride, but there are no parks or bike paths anywhere near their neighborhood, then they're not in a place where biking is fun, healthy, and safe.

You have to understand intersection. As a queer black woman, I live at the intersections, and so I'm not able to see a world in which there aren't multiple factors at play in everything that happens. Folks who say, "Why are you talking about more than bikes? This is the only issue," are doing so because they're coming from a perspective where they've been really lucky and privileged that they only have to think about one issue.

How does outreach have to change or improve to get everybody behind Vision Zero, and do you think it's possible to get everyone behind it?

Something I learned long ago is that you're never going to get everybody to 100 percent agree on everything. What you can do is, you can hear them. You can make sure they feel validated, and you can explain why you're doing the things you do. At the end of that, there are still going to be people who disagree with you, and there's only so much you can do. For transportation to continue to be successful in LA ... we have to figure out how to talk about these issues in a way that people understand—and not just in terms of commuting.

Engagement takes time. Our structures set up this paradigm where we have to meet deadlines and get projects done, where community engagement might be a meeting that we can check off on a list.

We don't really ask ourselves, did that meeting happen after work? Was that meeting in a convenient location for everyone? If a majority of the people in this neighborhood are non-English speakers, did we provide translation services? Did we make sure all of the materials were in those languages? These are the things that take more time.

I happen to think that the bar that many people use for community engagement presently is too low, and that we have to up our game and really be more creative about how we're meeting people where they are.

I think there's this tendency in this work to say, "We need to work with a nonprofit who's going to talk to people in the community and train the people in the community to talk like we talk and understand the issues like we understand them." But instead, we should be saying, "You know what? The knowledge and expertise is in the community, so I'm going to go there. And I'm not going to go in there as a savior—saying here's the plan, here's what we're going to do. I'm going to listen. I'm going to put in some time. I'm going to go to several meetings before bike lanes even come up." I think folks who are doing this work need to set the bar for engagement much higher.

What are some of the biggest hurdles to creating a safer, better transportation environment for Angelenos?

We can't ignore that in LA we are a car-centric culture. We can't ignore in LA that the Hollywood industry has historically really pushed back against bike lanes. We have unique challenges in LA that there aren't in other places.

To be successful, we're going to have to do more engagement. We're going to have to understand intersectionality way better.

For transportation to continue to be successful in LA—to ride the momentum of Measure M and make sure Measure M goes well—we have to figure out how to talk about these issues in a way that people understand—and not just in terms of commuting.

When Mayor Eric Garcetti was campaigning for Measure M, he said that he was going to make sure that

Transportation is the prism through which we should see all other social issues."

If you can't get to school, you're not going to get your education. If you can't get to work, you're not going to get your paycheck. As soon as we can get better at consistently talking about that and talking about transportation and mobility in a way that brings people together and not excludes people or keeps people out, I think the better off we'll be in Los Angeles.

You're moving on to work at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, which focuses on bringing parks and green space to communities of color in LA. Is that a natural progression of your work with the LACBC, or is it a totally new direction? At the end of the day, what I've always cared about is social justice, people and communities, and bringing people and communities together.

I could say about the LA Neighborhood Land Trust that it's about making sure that LA is a fun, healthy, safe place to be, just like the LACBC was.

Some people don't want a bike lane, because they think it's the first sign of gentrification; they think that property values might go up, and they might get pushed out. The same thing happens with a park. This job is totally a natural progression of what I've been doing, and it's something I'm excited about.

To touch on what you said about how some people fear improvements—a park, bike lanes, a renewed LA River—because, for them, those improvements mean the countdown clock has started until they have to move. This suspicion of what many would consider "nice things" looks strange to people who have never had that conflict.

As the paid advocates, we have to do better at understanding that there are real concerns, especially in LA, where everything you read talks about how much money you have to have just to live here.

Whenever changes come, whether or not it's in our relationships or in our communities, there's always this thought: "Is that change for me? Is that change for someone else? Am I going to benefit from this? Did I get to contribute to it? Am I part of this? Did I help build this?"

Sometimes, folks who have done this work, they assume that because they're experts, people will trust them, and people will trust them to do the right thing. But for so many of us in this country, no one's ever really cared about us, and trusting people in power hasn't really gotten us too far. So if we don't think about those historical and social contexts as we go in to do our work, then our work isn't going to be successful.

National Review

The Coming Swarm Of Presidential Candidates

By Jim Geraghty

The 2020 primary field is shaping up as an also-ran-a-rama. It's easy to laugh at Congressman John Delaney of Maryland, the little-known House Democrat who announced, to the opposite of fanfare, that he intends to run for his party's presidential nomination in 2020. FiveThirtyEight, a site for political junkies, joked that they couldn't remember his name and concluded, "This whole thing is a little nuts." Politico greeted him with the headline, "What is John Delaney thinking?" The Republican research firm America Rising offered a one-word statement in response: "Who?" But Democrats should feel unnerved by the fact that no one around Delaney can persuade him that this is a bad idea. The party is full of better-known, semi-known, and even comparatively little-known figures who might think they can do themselves or their career some good by announcing a presidential campaign. And it's not hard to imagine the bunch of them taking the plunge, creating another unruly stampede of candidates drowning one another out, and leaving the most outlandish candidate standing at the end. Democrats should prepare for the double-decker debate stage that Republicans endured in 2016. Start with the well-known, instantly serious candidates. Former vice president Joe Biden (1) told the Washington Post this spring, "Do I regret not being president? Yes." Vermont senator Bernie Sanders (2) may or may not want to run again, but he would begin with 13 million Democrats who voted for him last time, and he has to at least pretend to be interested in order to avoid the political equivalent of being put out to pasture. Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren (3) has been the Democrats' presidential candidate of the future since 2011. It's not true that every Democratic senator and governor is being mentioned as a potential candidate; it just feels that way. California senator Kamala Harris (4), formerly her state's attorney general, is getting a lot of attention; Democratic donors tell The Hill she's "absolutely going to run." New Jersey senator Cory Booker (5) spent much of his early career setting up Silicon Valley-focused centrist cred, but he's veered to the left since Trump took office. Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar (6) visited Iowa. States want the DHS to help protect election systems 00:15 00:45 Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe (7) says he might run for president. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley (8), whose campaign went nowhere in 2016, is polling Iowa caucusgoers for 2020. Montana governor Steve Bullock (9) is giving his party advice and is one of the few names on this list who can boast of winning a "red state." Quite a few Democrats think New York governor Andrew Cuomo's ambitions will drive him to run (10). California governor Jerry Brown (11) will be 82 and doesn't sound likely, but he says he's not ruling out a presidential run. Politico reports that former president Barack Obama wants former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick (12) to run. Over in the House, Chris Matthews asserts that Representative Adam Schiff (13) of California, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, will run for president. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts (14) is getting a lot of buzz, considering his low name ID. Back in December, the New Yorker declared that Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii should run for president (15). Oh, and then there's Delaney (16). Buzz about a presidential bid surrounds two mayors, Eric Garcetti (17) of Los Angeles and Mitch Landrieu (18) of New Orleans. We're up to 18 candidates, and that's not counting the celebrities and media figures who might think Trump demonstrated that political experience is not only no longer required, but a liability: Mark Zuckerberg, Oprah, Mark Cuban, and so on. Quite a few Democrats see Trump's victory in 2016 as a fluke, a historical accident, a twist of fate that can be explained only by

be the easiest path to the presidency in their lifetime. If President Trump's job approval remains low, a lot of Democrats will conclude that the 2020 race will be the easiest path to the presidency in their lifetime. For the lesser-known GOP candidates of the 2016 cycle, the dual-tier debate format turned into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Candidates polling poorly, usually with the lowest name recognition, were consigned to the 6:00 p.m. "undercard debate," the political equivalent of preseason football, with fewer viewers and fewer opportunities to break out. Even in the prime-time debates, there were only so many ways for candidates to say that Obamacare was a mess, taxes needed to be lower, they opposed abortion, and they would never "lead from behind" on the world stage. Long stretches of the debates turned into repetitive rhetorical sludge. A discerning primary voter could fairly ask some of the lesser-known, longest-of-long-shot, uninspiring, cookie-cutter candidates . . . "Why are you here?" (Anderson Cooper came close to this in one of the early Democratic presidential debates when he pointed out to Lincoln Chafee, "You've only been a Democrat for little more than two years.") Their agendas, campaign speeches, and commercials were similarly indistinct; the senators and retired governors all started blurring together into Hucka Santoru Gilmore Pataki Graham. One chunk of the field convinced itself there was an "establishment lane," leaving Jeb Bush, John Kasich, Marco Rubio, and Chris Christie all elbowing each other for the same base of support that proved insufficiently influential. On the other side, Ted Cruz, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, and Scott Walker tried to occupy the "conservative lane." Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina competed with Trump for an "outsider lane." But in the end, it turned out there were no real lanes, just a traffic jam. Every non-Trump candidate's determination to be the last one standing against Trump was the strategic miscalculation of the cycle. America has many politicians who are unremarkable beyond their inexplicable adamancy that they deserve to be the next president of the United States. For several cycles, these wannabes have treated our presidential primaries as book tours with bigger crowds and more balloons, eating up air time and media oxygen, certain that even if they failed miserably, a television gig, higher speaking fees and maybe another, bigger book deal awaited them after the marathon. The primary electorate's serious duty of sorting through genuinely qualified candidates is made harder by these globs of candidate cholesterol clogging up the arteries of democracy. Don't laugh, Democrats. Your own version of Jim Gilmore is coming. At some point in 2019, the media and primary voters will gather in a large room for a televised debate and listen to some unknown lawmaker who everyone knows will not finish in the top ten of either Iowa or New Hampshire stammer through a two-part question on Social Security. That unknown lawmaker might very well be John Delaney . . . not that you'll be able to remember his name anyway.

La Sentinel

New Workforce Development Program Means Win For LA

By Brian Carter

"It's a win-win because this phase is going to help the community go into the 21st century and beyond," said John 'Big John' Harriel, IBEW electrician and project superintendent for Morrow Meadows.

On Friday, July 28, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) launched Workforce Initiative Now-LA (WIN-LA), a groundbreaking workforce development program focused on creating career pathways in the transportation industry. Metro and elected officials along with employers, community-based organizations and workforce centers converged at the Sheraton Grand Los Angeles Hotel to galvanize this new initiative together.

In attendance was Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington and Miguel Cabral executive officer, diversity & economic opportunity, Mayor & Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mayors James T. Butts (Inglewood), Robert Garcia (Long Beach), Vartan Gharpetian (Glendale), councilmen Robert S. Joe (Pasadena) and Jeff Wood (Lakewood), Kate Mergen, director, governmental & regulatory affairs, associated general contractors of California, Shanae Rourk, chair, transportation business advisory council and chair, national association of women business owners and Robert B. Miller, vice chancellor, finance and resource development, Los Angeles Community College District.

The event introduced WIN-LA to prime contractors, small businesses and other potential partners to encourage their participation in the new programs designed to benefit the entire region.

"The expansion of our transportation system is going to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and we have a responsibility to make sure the people in our own communities have the skills to fill them," said Garcetti. "Workforce Initiative Now-Los Angeles will offer training resources to people across L.A. County, and prepare them for tomorrow's good-paying Metro jobs."

"We are about to launch a very, very deep and wide workforce development initiative focused on transportation as the centerpiece but it will move beyond that," said Ridley-Thomas. "Nothing but good news that can come out of this so our job is to put this WIN program out in our communities and tell people get ready, get ready, get ready!"

Career pathways include construction, non-construction opportunities in operations/maintenance, administration and professional services. Unique to the program, WIN-LA will provide support for participants in areas such as life skills development, skill set enhancement and educational attainment services through a collaboration of program partners. It also will increase the resources needed for training and placement of hard-to-fill positions within Metro and the transportation industry.

"It's an opportunity for people to really learn about transportation and know that there are so many jobs here that make this whole thing work," said Diane Frazier service operations superintendent for bus operations at METRO.

"This is a call to the community that your prayers have been answered," said Metro Board Member Jackie Dupont-Walker.

"If you are looking for a career in transportation, that has over 40 different professions, you should check it out."

Approximately 39 percent of Metro's workforce will be eligible for retirement over the next three years with 69 percent of Metro employees currently over the age of 40. Succession planning is crucial to maintaining a viable agency and Metro needs a workforce to deliver its aggressive Measure M program over the next 40 years and beyond.

WIN-LA is designed to be a collaborative partnership between Metro and those institutions and organizations interested in helping job seekers, companies and local communities through demand-driven workforce services. The goal is to create career pathway opportunities in the transportation and construction industries.

"What WIN LA means for the community is really reaching out, especially to those communities that are impoverished and on the lower socioeconomic strata and identify people in those communities, assess them, train them and put them to work on our projects," said Washington.

Measure M, a half-cent sales tax initiative approved by the voters in 2016, will provide \$860 million annually to build 40 highway and transit projects throughout L.A. County over the next 40 years. It is expected to generate an additional 778,000 jobs.

"WIN-LA can be for those who feel they have no hope—the light at the end of the tunnel," said Dupont-Walker.

"If you are hanging out at Starbucks, or hanging on the corner—we want you. If you just got back from prison and you don't think anybody else wants you—we want you. If you have come back from serving in the military, can't find a place to land—we want you.

"[Metro] has something for everybody—just show up."

Daily News

Harvard-Westlake parking structure controversy coming to crossroads in Studio City

By Antonie Boesenkool

The controversy over a proposed parking structure for a prestigious private school has been building for four years. Judging by the signs on lawns in Coldwater Canyon and even bedsheets hung from homes, it hasn't cooled one bit.

Now, the issue could be coming to a head, with the first public meeting since the city issued both draft and final environmental impact reports for Harvard-Westlake School's plan to build the three-story garage topped with a lighted athletic field across Coldwater Canyon Avenue from its Studio City campus.

Residents have been fighting the project ever since it was proposed four years ago. They formed the group Save Coldwater Canyon!, circulated petitions and hired experts to make their own assessments.

Resident Sarah Boyd, president of the group, said the project will mean 30 months of construction and associated traffic snarls along a major thoroughfare.

"That's a lot to ask of a community for a project that's benefiting only the school; there's no public benefit," Boyd said last week as she and Suellen Wagner, another member of Save Coldwater Canyon!, drove with a reporter to a hillside neighborhood overlooking the proposed site. Across the street, homeowners at one house had hung a bedsheet from their balcony reading "Save Coldwater Canyon" in hand-painted red letters.

"That traffic has to go somewhere," added Wagner. "It will be horrendous during construction, and I think it will be definitely worse than it is now, after, because you're bringing in more cars."

Compared with the last four years of debate, the next steps could happen quickly. On Tuesday, a hearing officer for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning will host the public meeting at Van Nuys City Hall. Anyone can weigh in and speak about the project. Planning Department staff will compile those comments for the city Planning Commission and, importantly, the hearing officer will make a recommendation about the project for the commission. The Planning Commission could make decisions as soon as Sept. 28 on Harvard-Westlake's project, according to Cheryl Getuiza, spokeswoman for the Planning Department. Appeals to any decisions by the commission will extend the process.

Rick Commons, president of Harvard-Westlake, didn't return calls seeking comment Wednesday. But the school has laid out its position in detail on its website.

Harvard-Westlake School, which counts Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and new Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Nick Melvoin among its alumni, first proposed building the parking structure in 2013. On its website outlining the project and responding to criticism, the school says the 750-space structure would answer the need for more parking and a practice sports field, and it would improve student safety.

The new structure, which the school proposes to link to the campus with a pedestrian bridge over Coldwater Canyon Avenue, would mean students and staff wouldn't park on neighborhood streets, traffic flow would be improved and there would be no more bus parking on Coldwater Canyon, the school said on its website.

Harvard-Westlake's existing parking "doesn't come close to meeting its demands," the school said on its website. The school said it will build a new southbound through-lane and a northbound turn lane on Coldwater Canyon, plus two dedicated southbound turn lanes from Coldwater Canyon Avenue into the parking structure, plans that opponents have been criticized as impractical.

"A thorough, peer-reviewed traffic analysis approved by [Los Angeles Department of Transportation] concludes that there will be no backup on Coldwater Canyon. The analysis, and peer review also concludes that construction of the project will not significantly affect traffic," the school said on its website.

Opponents' concerns and complaints have been many, from the cutting down of protected oak and walnut trees (the school would be required to plant hundreds more trees) to the nighttime light that would come from the athletic field. (Fourteen light poles are planned, which would, at their top height, be 84 feet above the street. The school said the lights would be on only until 8 p.m. weekdays.)

But one major concern is that the project would mean removing 137,000 cubic yards of dirt with about nine months' worth of truck trips. For those who live in the twisty-road hillside neighborhoods that line Coldwater Canyon, that's a problem, Boyd and Wagner said.

"These people, by and large, obviously they're upset project for environmental reasons," Boyd said. "But they're also very

any more as discussed by me.

Save Coldwater Canyon! isn't the only group opposing the project. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, with open space land abutting the project site, and the Studio City Residents Association, Sierra Club of L.A. and a few others also are against the school's plan.

Tuesday's meeting is set for 9 a.m. at Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys. Those who can't attend the meeting still have a chance to be heard by sending written comments to milena.zasadzien@lacity.org at the Planning Department by the end of Tuesday.

LA Times

Even in a booming economy, LA City Hall faces daunting budget challenges

By Dave Zahniser

Standing outside City Hall, Mayor Eric Garcetti launched his second term by offering an audience a celebratory message: Los Angeles has clawed its way back from crisis.

Garcetti described the city's emergence from a recession that, in his words, sapped the public's morale and "gutted" basic services. "We ... got back to work one street tree, one sidewalk, one pothole at a time," he told the audience last month. Los Angeles is indeed spending more on its streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure. Yet even in a booming economy, Garcetti faces a daunting set of budget challenges — including a projected gap of more than \$200 million in two years, budget estimates show.

The city continues to face a "structural deficit," with projections showing expenses exceeding the money that comes in. Retirement costs are poised to jump significantly, consuming funds that would otherwise pay for public services. And if another downturn hits, Garcetti will have less room to maneuver than in the last recession — thanks to decisions he and the City Council have made.

In recent years, the mayor and city lawmaker have signed off on legal settlements that dictate how much the city must spend on sidewalk repairs and on affordable housing for disabled renters.

Garcetti and the council also endorsed a legal agreement that, if approved by a judge, would limit the amount of money sent to the city budget by the Department of Water and Power. And they have reduced business taxes in a way that would be difficult to reverse during a crisis.

Those budget constraints represent more than \$100 million per year in lost revenue and additional financial commitments, a Times analysis found. And they will tie the hands of city leaders for years to come, said City Controller Ron Galperin.

"In the next downturn, that means there is going to be very, very little wiggle room" to balance the budget, he said.

Garcetti, in an interview, argued that the city's finances are "quite strong." Since the recession, he said, city leaders have built up more than \$400 million in reserves, double the amount available a decade ago.

"There's no question we're in a better position than we were in 2008," he said. "We're more efficient. We have more in reserves. We've been much better at increasing the staff in a prudent way."

Garcetti defended the sidewalk spending agreement, saying he would have pushed for the repairs anyway, and described the DWP settlement as "one we can live with." But he also argued that city leaders are working to bring in new sources of funding, including taxes on marijuana, billboards and short-term rental sites like Airbnb.

"There are revenues that make this not a one-sided story," he added.

Still, that money might not be enough. An analysis released by the city in April indicated that the general fund budget, which pays for police patrols, firefighter response and other basic services, could see a nearly 20% jump in pension and retiree healthcare costs by 2019.

A report issued in April projected a \$215 million increase in retirement costs over two years, if two pension boards lower their earnings projections. That figure could grow, depending on coming budget decisions.

That would push the city's retirement costs up to \$1.3 billion. Councilman Paul Koretz, who heads a committee on personnel issues, voiced fears about the city's ability to absorb such an increase in hard times.

"If we had a big economic downturn," he said, "we'd have to fill [the gap] by reducing services and probably laying people off."

The last time Los Angeles faced a recession, the city's elected officials were caught off guard.

When the downturn hit in 2008, they had just approved five years of employee raises totaling nearly 25% for most civilian city workers. They also had hired hundreds of new police officers.

What followed were service rollbacks in libraries, parks, the Fire Department and other agencies — and the departure of thousands of city employees. The crisis was exacerbated by major investment losses for the city's pension funds, which made the budget picture worse.

The city's pension agencies have seen stronger returns since the recession. But elected officials are about to confront a new round of challenges.

The looming pension threat

In June, the agency that oversees pensions for retired police officers and firefighters cut its "assumed rate of return" — its yearly earnings projection — from 7.5% to 7.25%. The Fire and Police Pensions board concluded that their investments would not produce returns as strong as previously forecast.

When the pension board reduces its investment projections, taxpayers — and the city budget — frequently make up the difference. But the board also updated its long-range forecast to reflect the reality that its retirees are living longer and will need pensions for a greater number of years.

Those actions are expected to increase the city's employee retirement costs by \$84 million next year, according to recent estimates.

The pension board for police officers and firefighters recently cut their yearly earnings assumptions, shifting the cost to the city budget. Investment returns have fluctuated dramatically over the past decade.

A second pension board, which serves civilian city workers, is set to consider a similar set of costly changes. If it follows the lead of Fire and Police Pensions, the city could see at least \$38 million in added costs, officials say.

The increased retirement costs are set to hit the city budget next year, when Garcetti and the council are slated to finalize new contracts with two big employee groups: the Police Protective League, which represents rank-and-file police officers, and the Coalition of L.A. City Unions, which represents civilian workers.

Art Sweatman, a tree surgeon supervisor with the Bureau of Street Services, said many city workers are struggling to keep up with rising rents and home prices.

"We need to keep up with the cost of living," he added.

For every 1% pay increase given to police officers and coalition workers, the city will need to spend an additional \$22 million, according to city estimates. And because pension benefits are based on salaries, those raises will ultimately add to the overall retirement burden.

City budget analysts say their pension cost projections could change significantly depending on hiring decisions, the size of raises and the economic performance of the two funds. But if their figures prove to be accurate and retirement costs grow by nearly 20%, the city would have to cut spending, bring in more money or tap reserve funds.

Scarred by the experiences of the last recession, city leaders steadily built up the reserve over the past decade. But they have also chipped away at it in recent years, using it to balance the budget and pay for programs to address homelessness.

Los Angeles' reserve fund, which includes money for emergencies, is a much bigger share of the general fund budget than it was during the recession. The figure for 2017 is an estimate.

Faced with a crisis, city leaders could do what they did last time — scale back public services. But some of those reductions won't be as easy next time.

Take sidewalks. When the global recession hit in 2008, city leaders halted funding for repairs, adding to an already sizable backlog of buckled pavement.

Soon after that decision, advocates for the disabled filed a lawsuit arguing that L.A.'s network of broken sidewalks violated the civil rights of wheelchair users. They demanded a citywide commitment to repairs.

Garcetti and the council settled the case once the economy recovered, promising to spend at least \$31 million a year on repairs. That obligation jumps to nearly \$36 million after five years and to \$41 million after a decade.

Even if a downturn hits, the city must spend no less than \$25 million per year to remain in compliance with the settlement agreement, according to Garcetti aides. That means they likely would have to look elsewhere for cuts.

They won't have much success reducing library hours, another area hit during the last recession. That's because voters passed a 2011 ballot measure increasing the minimum funding for libraries — an initiative placed on the ballot by Garcetti and other city elected officials.

Cuts at the Recreation and Parks Department also wouldn't make much of a dent, since that agency is also guaranteed a specific share of funding.

The city also has new spending obligations on housing.

Last summer, Garcetti and the council signed off on a legal settlement that requires city officials to spend at least \$200 million on housing for disabled renters over the next 10 years. This year, in the first year of that agreement, \$11 million is coming from the budget for basic services.

City funds could soon be limited in other ways, thanks to yet another legal fight.

Forfeiting revenue

Like many mayors before him, Garcetti has relied on the DWP to send the city budget what is billed as a yearly "surplus." But that practice has become the target of legal challenges, with ratepayer activists calling the money an illegal tax.

In an effort to settle those cases, Garcetti and the council cut the size of the payment to \$242 million, down roughly \$25 million from the previous year.

As part of the proposed settlement, city leaders agreed to limit the amount the DWP can transfer in future years. That would impede the city's ability to increase the funds taken from the DWP during a crisis, something previous mayors have done.

L.A.'s budget faces new constraints — financial commitments and forfeited revenue

Sidewalks: \$31 million in yearly repairs

Business tax cut: \$45 million per year in lost revenue

Disabled housing: \$20 million in yearly expenses

DWP settlement (proposed): \$25 million in reduced revenue

The city is also scaling back the business taxes it collects from key companies — lawyers, financial planners and other professional service firms. Garcetti secured passage of the reduction, which is being phased in over three years and is expected to remove \$45 million annually from the budget.

Garcetti contends that business tax cuts, pursued strategically, stimulate the economy and ultimately produce more money for the budget. Still, if he changes his mind, he and the council would have a difficult time undoing their decision. Under state law, any increase in the business tax would require a ballot measure and a citywide election, according to policy analysts.

The search for more money

Despite the looming budget pressures, Garcetti and the council managed to boost spending in two major areas this year: transportation and programs to address homelessness. Both were possible because voters agreed to tax themselves in the November election.

Garcetti and city lawmakers have been eyeing other sources of additional money.

In the mayor's latest budget, the city is expecting a \$36-million increase in lodging taxes, almost all of it from Airbnb and other short-term rental services. That assumption has infuriated some housing advocates, who contend that Airbnb disrupts neighborhoods and drives up rents.

The mayor is also looking to generate \$12 million this year from placing digital billboards on city property. But that strategy has not yet been approved by the council — and could face opposition from neighborhood groups.

Then there is the biggest windfall of all: an estimated \$50 million per year from marijuana retailers, who are looking to operate legally in the wake of recent ballot measures on pot sales.

The city's strategy drew criticism from Laura Lake, a Westwood resident who fought one of the city's last big money-making strategies — 50-year leases of municipal parking garages. The city is "desperate" for funds, she said, and is turning to solutions that will seriously affect neighborhoods.

Lake described digital billboards as a form of blight and argued that Airbnb is depriving Angelenos of rent-controlled housing. Marijuana retailers, because they deal in cash, may place an additional burden on police, she argued.

"I'm surprised the City Council isn't licensing brothels and casinos," Lake added. "I mean, why not?"

Garcetti contends the city's work on marijuana, billboard and home-sharing regulations is based on good policy, not a hunt for revenue. At the same time, he made clear he wants those funds to flow into the city budget.

"The voters passed marijuana [sales] and I'll be damned if the city isn't going to get some money from those increased sales, period," he said.

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Good Works: Sleeping Bags & Toiletries Needed For Northeast LA Homeless

<https://www.theeastsideria.com/2017/08/good-works-sleeping-bags-toiletries-needed-for-northeast-l-a-homeless/>

Housing:

Rental company abruptly closes, customers out hundreds of dollars

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/271636393-story>

Fresh renderings from mixed user bringing 296 apartments to Historic South Central

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34 story tower planned for Brentwood moving forward

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47 new apartments to sprout up near Lafayette Park in Westlake

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Harvard-Westlake parking structure controversy coming to crossroads in Studio City

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Man died of LAPD gunfire while barricaded in Hollywood motel

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LAPD seeks hit-and-run driver in Winnetka that killed motorcyclist

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Fire destroys North Hollywood garages and vacant apartment units

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LA committee approves funds to fight rising violent gang crime in West Valley

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Tired of waiting on LA to repair bad sidewalks? You could get paid to do it for them

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Valley street flooded after apparent water main break

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2 water mains burst in Reseda in 1 day

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Preview of August Service Council meetings

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Say hello to Metro's best: Bus operators share what they enjoy most about the job

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City of Los Angeles:

Where are we housing everyone for LA's 2028 Olympics?

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LA snagged the 2028 Olympics. What do you remember from the '84 Games?

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/08/02/74318/los-angeles-olympics-memories/>

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 6:55 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

UNIVISION: Alcalde de Los Ángeles promociona la ciudad para atraer el turismo mexicano (VIDEO ONLY)

POLITICO: 'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight

LA TIMES: Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

LA TIMES: Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

MERCURY NEWS: Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

SFV BUSINESS JOURNAL: VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport

JEWISH JOURNAL: Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism

Político**'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight**

By: Jeremy B. White

OAKLAND — The next big political fight over data privacy may center on an unlikely piece of technology: The scooters currently flying around streets and scattered on sidewalks in cities across the country.

And as always, it's brewing first in California, the state that last year enacted a landmark consumer privacy law that's roiling Silicon Valley and Washington policymakers.

In Los Angeles, a dispute over how the city manages data embedded in Uber-operated scooters has emerged as a leading-edge privacy issue, foreshadowing a debate over the government's role in managing sensitive data in a new era of connected transit.

City officials want granular location information on thousands of dockless scooters that are proliferating in the sprawling southern California metropolis. They say it's critical to know what's happening in their streets and ensure people are being served equitably.

But Uber's dockless vehicle company, JUMP, is pushing back, arguing that the scale of data Los Angeles wants poses a menace to personal privacy.

In a letter to Los Angeles Department of Transportation manager Seleta Reynolds, the company warned of "an unprecedented level of surveillance, oversight, and control that LADOT would wield over private companies and individual citizens." (Reynolds responded that those concerns were "uninformed, and therefore, falsely characterize" the situation.)

The clash opens another chapter in a long-running conflict between cities and mobility companies, like Uber, that previously sought to aggressively expand before getting official approval. Uber and Lyft have for years sparred with cities over access to what the companies consider valuable proprietary information.

Skeptics of Uber's motives note that companies already collect huge amounts of personal data, and not always with positive results: Uber reached a \$148 million settlement with California earlier this year over a massive breach of consumer information.

But Uber's letter hits on a larger concern about government's expanding role in tracking how people move around. Privacy advocates say that location data is especially sensitive given that it can reveal a person's movements and private transactions — all the more so given that dockless vehicles can take a person directly to or from their home or business.

"I think it's the big privacy issue of the next few years," said Joseph Jerome, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology's data and privacy project. "This sort of combination of private data in public hands is going to be a bigger and bigger issue, and when it's geolocation there are some particular questions."

Former Los Angeles Assemblyman Mike Gatto, who oversaw a nascent committee devoted to privacy, recounted Department of Motor Vehicles officials telling about a 2014 data breach that exposed the names and addresses of thousands of people who had used the city's bike-sharing program.

state databases.

Gatto warned that when government agencies create public databases, "law enforcement has the ability to access it, and they will."

A LADOT spokesperson said the agency would share data with the Los Angeles Police Department only when presented with a warrant; the spokesperson did not answer questions about whether information can be revealed in a lawsuit or what restrictions LA imposes on sharing between city agencies.

The debate comes as cities contend with an explosion of scooters: pending applications would put roughly 40,000 more on LA's roads, according to LADOT chief sustainability officer Marcel Porras.

"We were looking to respond quickly to a new mobility that kind of landed on our streets without permission," he said.

Porras said it's critical for the city to have a clear view of a rapidly growing means of transit so they can stay on top of the swiftly changing situation on the ground and see if scooters end up "in the LA River."

City officials also want that data so they can ensure companies are abiding by promises to make the technology available to lower-income residents "in areas of the city where these types of private sector investments may not normally go to first," Porras said.

"We're telling companies that if they want to expand their fleet, you have to put more of these units in disadvantaged communities," Porras said.

Porras said city officials rigorously examined privacy implications and ultimately decided to classify the location information as confidential, meaning it's not subject to public records requests. He noted that the information LA is collecting does not include personal identifiers.

"We are collecting vehicle information, not information on riders," he said.

Los Angeles is widely seen as ahead of the curve on data practices. A representative for **Mayor Eric Garcetti** stressed that record and said the city strives to keep residents informed "as new technologies emerge."

"Scooter location is tracked in a transparent way that protects user privacy, and the city has a strong track record of improving systems through data while being sensitive to privacy concerns," spokeswoman Anna Bahr said in a release.

Such assurances, however, have met with skepticism from people who have observed the perils of how government agencies manage data.

"The data's only as good as its weakest link," Gatto said. "I do believe this is one of those issues that is at the tipping point," he added, noting "this gut feeling we all have which is 'this is creepy — why is government tracking every single move and storing the data?'"

The debate is unfurling as the state wrestles over the scope of the California Consumer Privacy Act, which emerged last year amid growing concerns about Big Tech's intrusiveness.

While Los Angeles says the law does not apply to data schema managed by government, the parallel developments demonstrate how data privacy is becoming a paramount consideration for policymakers — particularly the large and growing pool of information on where people are going in a world of increasingly sophisticated and connected transit.

"If you know where people work and pray and play you know a whole lot about them," Jerome said. "Our concern is [Los Angeles] is asking for a whole lot of data — more frequent and rigorous real-time data than companies collect and provide at the moment."

The issue isn't restricted to Los Angeles. In her capacity as an official in the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Reynolds has been sharing LA's data collection method as a possible model for other cities — an effort that transit experts said was gaining traction far beyond California.

She was among the NACTO officials last year touting a project called Shared Streets that lets private companies and public agencies share transit data. A NACTO representative declined to speak on the record, but the Shared Streets website has a section devoted to assuring that "incredibly sensitive" data would be anonymized.

Last December, a collection of chief data officers of American cities signed an open letter heralding the launch of dockless vehicles and arguing that cities getting their raw data was "essential for internal urban planning." They argued for "block-level aggregation" that would safeguard privacy and against sharing individual routes.

Hanging over the scooter debate is an intensifying race by major tech and auto companies to deploy autonomous vehicles at scale. Driverless cars traveled more than two million miles on California's public roads last year, according to the DMV, a fourfold increase from the prior year.

Those vehicles generate enormous amounts of data. As California and the federal government work to shape the rules that should govern their use, transportation experts said LA's foray into managing transportation data could offer a glimpse of what's to come.

"Scooters are sort of a test case for how transit agencies are going to manage data as you deploy more technology," Jerome said.

In LA, a city that's long been emblematic of personal car culture, city officials are bracing for seismic changes brought on by the confluence of shared ridership, autonomous vehicle technology and big data. A LADOT plan repeatedly underscores how the city will need to assert its authority.

"Control is a fundamental aspect of today's transportation network and will become even more critical in the future," the plan says, which will mean launching a "technology platform that enables our Department to actively manage the transportation network in ways we previously have not."

The report describes the implications in strikingly evocative terms, predicting that the "technical, political, and structural aspects of this change are momentous, but so is the human emotional one."

The word "privacy" does not appear in the document.

LA Times

Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

By: Howard Blume

Last year, the power of the local teachers union seemed to be on the wane while charter schools' prospects were rising. Los Angeles Board of Education members backed by charter supporters were in control, and they'd pushed through a new superintendent whose background had nothing to do with education.

On Tuesday, voters showed how quickly things can change.

Jackie Goldberg, the union-backed candidate, easily outpaced nine others on the ballot in a special election that could shift the balance on the school board — thanks in large part to public support cultivated during a six-day teachers' strike in January.

The 74-year-old veteran public official didn't quite get the majority needed to win the District 5 seat outright, but she claimed 48% of the vote, making her the strong favorite in a May 14 runoff against a second-place finisher who trailed her by 35 percentage points.

Goldberg, who served on the board for two terms until 1991, proclaimed herself part of a larger movement to bring more resources to education — and also to rein in charter schools.

"This is the beginning and not the end of putting together all those people who came together around the teachers' strike — not just here but in Oakland and the folks in Madera and the folks in Fresno that are all trying to make these things happen," Goldberg said. "People moved to California when I was young for our schools. And since then we have starved them, and we cannot continue starving them. This movement is about that."

It's not yet clear who Goldberg will face in the runoff, but it will either be Graciela Ortiz or Heather Repenning, who at last count were separated by 53 votes. Neither would be a clear-cut option for charter supporters. The candidate with the strongest pro-charter position, Allison Bajracharya, finished fifth.

Ortiz is a school counselor and a member of the Huntington Park City Council. Repenning is a former public works commissioner and longtime senior aide to L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**. Their order of finish will be settled by mail-in and provisional ballots. The vote count can continue as late as March 19.

A timely candidate

Goldberg's success was partly due to her own brand: She served on the school board, on the L.A. City Council and in the state Legislature; she's well-known and well-regarded by many.

But her success also was built on teacher activism, including last year's strikes in other states and this year's walkouts in

Los Angeles and Oakland. Union leaders in L.A. followed up their January strike by immediately launching a campaign that spent about \$660,000 on Goldberg's behalf. She also raised about \$200,000 for her own campaign — and she noted Tuesday night that she'd benefited from 1,300 small contributions and 800 volunteers.

Her activism goes way back to the UC Berkeley free speech movement of the mid-1960s — an era, she noted, in which students paid no tuition for their higher education. The state, she said, needs to find its way back to a deeper investment in its children.

Charter schools, too, would benefit from increased education funding, but charter advocates strongly — although quietly — opposed Goldberg. They worry about her calls for limiting the number of new charters and imposing more stringent regulations on them. (Both would require changes to state law.)

Goldberg aligns with those who say that privately operated charters — which compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that goes with them — are undermining public education. Charter backers counter that their schools have provided healthy competition and high-quality choices for families. About 1 in 5 local public school students now attend a charter — and wealthy pro-charter donors want further charter expansion.

Anti-charter themes were a regular refrain of striking teachers, and they seemed to strike a chord with people who may not previously have been familiar with the arguments.

A survey of L.A. Unified School District residents during and just after the strike found that about 3 in 4 said the focus should be on improving existing public schools rather than on alternatives such as charter schools, said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

Although the charter lobby remains powerful, it also suffered a setback at the state level last year, when it ran campaigns on behalf of candidates who lost the races for governor and the state superintendent of public instruction. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom — who has signaled his openness to more regulation of charter school — signed legislation that would compel charters to follow laws on public records and public meetings.

Money matters

Tuesday's outcome also marked a new direction in another way. In several previous elections, pro-charter funders outspent everyone — to good effect. In 2017, candidates they backed claimed their first-ever L.A. school board majority. And a charter school founder, Ref Rodriguez, became president of the board.

Rodriguez represented District 5 — the region on Tuesday's ballot, which takes in neighborhoods north of downtown and then cuts a narrow path east of downtown to the cities of southeast L.A. County. He was supposed to serve through 2020.

Two months after Rodriguez became board president, however, prosecutors charged him with political money laundering. He stepped down as president but remained on the board for nearly a year, just long enough to cast a crucial vote for hiring businessman Austin Beutner as superintendent.

Goldberg said she would have voted to hire an educator rather than Beutner, but she also said she would try to work with the superintendent.

Rodriguez resigned in July after pleading guilty to one felony and three misdemeanors. His crimes, his delay in leaving office and his willingness to cast important swing votes during that time did not sit well with some parents and voters.

For this week's primary, charter backers were never able to coalesce around an opponent to Goldberg. Bajracharya, an executive at a charter organization, had substantial support from charter allies but not the overwhelming sums provided by mega-donors in recent elections.

Four candidates raised enough money to get their message out: Goldberg, Bajracharya, Ortiz and Repenning. And each also had donors who funded independent campaigns on their behalf. The teachers union's spending on Goldberg was a relative bargain compared to what it spent in recent races — often in a losing cause.

But the biggest spender in the primary was Local 99 of Services Employees International Union, which represents most nonteaching district employees. It put nearly \$1 million into a campaign to elect Repenning, who also had the endorsement of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Part of Local 99's money paid for a misleading campaign against Goldberg, describing her as a career politician who is "always looking out for #1" and who favored prisons over schools, slashed education spending and presided over a failing school system.

Even if their campaign helped force a runoff, Repenning finished so far back that Local 99 now must ponder how much it

wants to continue fighting Goldberg, with whom the union previously has gotten along.

Many observers assumed that the pro-charter funders — organized under the group California Charter Schools Assn. Advocates — were simply holding their fire till the runoff. Goldberg's strong showing could affect that calculus.

A spokesman for CCSA Advocates declined to comment Wednesday.

Also covered by: LA Magazine, LA Daily News, Eastsider LA

LA Times

Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

To the editor: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to explore congestion pricing. This is a bad idea.

We cannot tax our way out of traffic any more than we can reduce the number of residents in and around Los Angeles, nor can most people change where they live or where they must travel to work.

Encouraging housing development along the various Metro routes is an option, but ultimately, we will never be able to overcome the challenges presented by the spread-out geography of greater Los Angeles.

If Los Angeles and other nearby cities really want to see traffic move more quickly, they should put significantly more effort and money into repairing our streets, which are in a shameful and dare I say dangerous state of disrepair.

Joe Grauman, Los Angeles

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To the editor: A single word appearing in the article explains everything. The word is "choice," and it implies that working people will make an informed decision about whether or not to pay an additional tax to get to work.

The only real choice would be to pay the tax or pay one's rent. The effect of congestion pricing will be to remove working poor people from the highway so the wealthy can relax.

If the Red Line subway went from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and all other rail lines were complete, there might be a bit of fairness to this proposal. But in this form, it is merely insulting.

Jon Hartmann, Los Angeles

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To the editor: Metro wants to study a proposal to tax motorists and ride-share operators to the tune of \$580 million over a decade. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is quoted as saying, "This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue."

If that is true, then the Metro board members should read the L.A. Times' March 4 op-ed article, "We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence." They would learn the city of Hangzhou used artificial intelligence to decrease road congestion.

It's a shame there isn't this kind of intelligence, artificial or otherwise, at Metro.

Tom Keiser, Pasadena

Mercury News

Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

By: Casey Tolan

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo backed Sen. Kamala Harris for president Thursday, lending his support to a fellow former Bay Area prosecutor as her campaign rolled out endorsements from a slate of California mayors.

"Senator Harris stands head and shoulders above the current field in the ability to articulate a vision that can move America forward and a willingness to say what needs to be said," Liccardo told the Bay Area News Group in an interview. "She's been a great champion for California and for our values."

In Harris' latest move to consolidate home state support, she also announced endorsements from Mayors London Breed of San Francisco, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Robert Garcia of Long Beach and Aja Brown of Compton.

Harris' campaigns for office "paved the way for me and many women who have sought elected office in this state," Breed

said in a statement. "She is acutely aware of the work that needs to be done on behalf of this nation and is prepared to lead and lift up hard-working men and women across this nation."

The former state attorney general and San Francisco district attorney, Harris has already won the backing of elected officials up and down the California ballot, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, five members of Congress and a host of other state officers and legislators. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf also endorsed Harris at her campaign kick-off rally earlier this year.

The Golden State is expected to play an unusually important role this year due to its early spot on the calendar and its major delegate haul. Californians will go to the polls on March 3, just after the four traditional early states and on the same day as a more than a half-dozen other states including Texas, North Carolina and Virginia.

As of Thursday, Harris has the support of all the Democratic leaders of California's nine biggest cities except for **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, who publicly mused about a presidential bid before deciding not to run in January. He hasn't made a choice in the race.

The latest endorsements for Harris aren't exactly a surprise. Breed, who called the senator her "Bay Area sister," hosted a friendly San Francisco event for Harris' book tour earlier this year and attended her Oakland rally.

Liccardo, a former Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, said he was impressed by Harris' work with him and other mayors on under-the-radar issues like improving emergency warning systems. Harris will be the best candidate to balance progressive policies with appeals to moderate voters, he argued: "If this is just a contest to see who can race faster to the left, the Democratic Party will be headed for defeat in 2020."

Harris might not be the only Californian in the race for the White House: East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell is also considering a run, and spent this past weekend meeting activists across northeast Iowa, his 17th trip to the state since the beginning of 2017.

San Fernando Valley Business Journal **VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport** By: Mark Madler

The Aviation Committee of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association received an update Wednesday on efforts to allow public events in aircraft hangars at Van Nuys Airport.

Max Reyes, an economic policy manager in **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office, told the committee that the mayor's office has been working with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles World Airports, representatives from Councilwoman Nury Martinez's office and the Van Nuys Airport Association on the issue.

"We feel there has been progress," said Flora Margheritis, general manager of Van Nuys Airport.

Right now, a point of contention is about whether the large hangar doors will be considered emergency exits, Reyes said.

The issue of public events at the San Fernando Valley airfield came to the attention of airport tenants and VICA in December at a meeting of the airport association. Tenants were told of a city of Los Angeles administrative ruling that prohibits public events in hangars at Van Nuys Airport and warehouses across the city and that the Building and Safety Department would begin to enforce it.

A report is expected in the next week or two from the department and a proposed ordinance sponsored by Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee on March 19, Reyes said.

The proposed ordinance, introduced in December, instructs the L.A. Fire Department and Building and Safety Department to recommend a system to permit events at hangars.

"There is a pathway there and we are working on that," said Curt Castagna, who serves as president of the Van Nuys Airport Association

VICA has become involved with the issue as its executive committee in December passed a resolution in opposition to the event ban and calling for deferring implementation of the ban at Van Nuys and Los Angeles International airports for 180 days; creating standards for review and a permitting process; and making a clear distinction between hangars and warehouses.

Jewish Journal **Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism** By: Ryan Torok and Aaron Bandler

A mural in downtown Los Angeles depicting the Grim Reaper wrapped inside an American flag emblazoned with Jewish stars, gripping a baby, cradling a missile and surrounded by snakes, has been deemed anti-Semitic by several civic leaders and organizations, including Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office.

"This mural is a shameful act of anti-Semitism," Alex Comisar, a spokesman for Garcetti, said in a statement. "Imagery like this should have no place in our city."

The image, on the exterior wall of The Vortex, a performance and event space in an industrial downtown neighborhood, was first painted in 2011 by local artist Vyal Reyes as part of an art show titled, "LA vs. WAR." In 2018, Reyes said on his Instagram page that the work was inspired by a trip he took "to Palestine some years back."

However, the controversy didn't erupt until Feb. 25, when Zhenya Rozinskiy of boutique consulting firm Mirigos shared a photograph of the mural on his Facebook page and it went viral.

Among those condemning the mural was Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party. The group posted a picture of the mural on its Facebook page and tagged the Vortex, stating: "Hey The Vortex, Is this a real thing on your building? If yes, why? It's wildly anti-Semitic. If not, you should probably clear up the confusion. Signed, Some confused and concerned community members."

But in an email to the Journal, Reyes said he isn't anti-Semitic and that he intended the mural to be "critical of the U.S. and its increasing focus on war."

"That particular neighborhood that the mural was painted in was in worse shape at the time and homeless people lived all around there," Reyes said. "It seemed to me at the time that the U.S. was more into funding war than helping its homeless. Even at that time, the U.S. was funding massive amounts of money to Israel, as they still are. That's not anti-Semitic; that's just a fact."

Jeff Norman, a representative of the Vortex, also defended Reyes. "The Vortex stands for free expression," Norman said in an email to the Journal. "The artist whose mural includes the Star of David (created for the LA vs. WAR show to acknowledge 9/11 about 5-6 years ago) did not intend to express an anti-Semitic message. We believe his intent deserves considerable weight. We invite those who feel otherwise to paint another mural next to it. We are also open to hosting a public discussion about this controversy at The Vortex."

But on the night of Feb. 25 or the morning of Feb. 26, the words "No place for hate" were painted over the mural. While it's unclear who was responsible for defacing the mural, the artists' rights organization Artists 4 Israel sent a photograph of the defaced mural to their email list subscribers on Feb. 26.

When asked if his group was responsible for painting over the mural, Artists 4 Israel CEO Craig Dershowitz told the Journal that he did not have any comment, although he conceded that he was troubled by the mural's imagery.

As of press time, The Vortex had not made any effort to repair the mural or to notify the police about the defacement, Norman said.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League has called for the mural's removal.

"For a venue that purports to welcome the community, The Vortex should join us in condemning hateful imagery that invokes anti-Semitic canards conflating Jews with death, snakes, bombs and killing babies," the organization said in a statement.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

1 message

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Wed, May 29, 2019 at 7:08 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

NEW YORK TIMES: A Ballot Measure Could Help Los Angeles Schools, but Will Voters Support It?
LA TIMES: Chinese tourism to U.S. drops for first time in 15 years
LA TIMES: Black market cannabis shops thrive in L.A. even as city cracks down
STREETSBLOG LA: This Week In Livable Streets
LA SCHOOL REPORT: \$500M annual parcel tax unlikely to pass if low voter turnout trend persists, poll shows
FOX AND HOUNDS DAILY: Mayoral Mismatch
YO! VENICE: MTA Bridge Housing Operator Chosen, Injunction Denied
HR TECHNOLOGIST: The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation Partners with Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology to pilot WorkforceReady
LIBERATION NEWS: The struggle is in the streets: LA's ruling class attacks the houseless
THE BULWARK: The Democratic Debates Are Going To Be a Clownshow
GRIT DAILY: THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM LA: FASHION

New York Times

A Ballot Measure Could Help Los Angeles Schools, but Will Voters Support It?
By Jill Cowan

Good morning.

(Here's the sign-up, if you don't already get California Today by email.)

Today, we have an update on the Los Angeles teachers' strike, part of a series of protests by educators that have rippled across the state this year. The dispatch comes from my colleague, Jennifer Medina:

When L.A. teachers went on strike earlier this year, public opinion seemed to swing in their favor. Drivers honked enthusiastically when they passed by schools crowded with protests, presidential candidates backed the teachers' demands, and celebrities took it as an opportunity to decry longstanding underfunding of California public schools.

The strike ended with a deal brokered by **Mayor Eric Garcetti** to cap class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors at schools throughout the district.

Now comes the test: Are taxpayers willing to fork over more money for the Los Angeles Unified School District with a parcel tax?

The agreement between the teachers' union and school district officials relied on finding an additional \$403 million to pay for the plan. Despite California's liberal reputation, the state lags far behind other states in education spending. And while school officials continue to press Sacramento to increase funding, several school districts have approved local tax increases to pay for public schools.

Getting voters to the polls can be difficult in the best of circumstances. It may prove herculean next Tuesday, when Measure EE — as the 16-cents-per-square-foot parcel tax is officially called — is the only issue on the ballot. The measure would generate \$6 billion for Los Angeles schools in the next 12 years.

In addition to the teachers' union and the mayor, the ballot measure has attracted support from presidential candidates. But the Chamber of Commerce and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association have aggressively campaigned against it, saying the school system needs to manage existing funding better.

Conventional wisdom suggests that the higher the turnout, the more likely Measure EE will win. Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of United Teachers Los Angeles, said the union had been "knocking doors every day" to get homeowners' support.

If Measure EE fails, it is unlikely that the district can stick with the promises made amid the strike deal.

"In the short term if it doesn't pass we're looking at the status quo," said Yuseff Robb, a spokesman for the Yes on EE campaign. "Shortly thereafter it will give way to cuts. When you have 46 kids in a classroom how much further can you go?"

Here's what else we're following

(We often link to sites that limit access for nonsubscribers. We appreciate your reading Times coverage, but we also encourage you to support local news if you can.)

Senator Kamala Harris at an event in Los Angeles. CreditMike Blake/Reuters

- Amid a wave of states passing sharp abortion restrictions, Senator Kamala Harris proposed requiring states and local governments that have histories of unconstitutionally restricting abortion rights to get federal approval before they can enact such laws. It's similar to a provision in the Voting Rights Act. [The New York Times]
- The California Democratic Party, racked by scandal and divided by infighting, is facing three lawsuits. And yet, as the party prepares for its annual convention in San Francisco, observers say it's doing just fine. [CALmatters]
- West Hollywood Prep, the school where proctors were suspected of giving test answers to kids of parents implicated in the college admissions scandal, was also giving diplomas to nonstudents for a fee.[The Los Angeles Times]
- Police executed seven search warrants in their investigation into how a freelance journalist got a leaked police report about the February death of Jeff Adachi, San Francisco's longtime public defender. The revelation suggests the probe has been wider than previously known. [The San Francisco Chronicle]
- Yet another metric of the housing crisis: Home prices in Southern California are rising four times faster than wages. [Los Angeles Daily News]
- Google's temps and contractors outnumber the company's full-time work force. The company's increasing reliance on those workers has employees wondering if management is undermining its vaunted culture. [The New York Times]

Images making waves

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez responded to a video that seemed to compare her to dictators.

CreditSeth Wenig/Associated Press

- A Memorial Day tribute video shown at a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game seemed to compare Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with Kim Jong-un and Fidel Castro. Team officials said the video was shown by mistake. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez responded. [The Fresno Bee]
- A San Diego State graduate honored her parents by posing for a moving photo with them in the field where they work. "Their sacrifice to come to this country to give us a better future was well worth it," she said. [CNN]
- Ali Wong and Randall Park talk about the subtle subversion of making a "When Harry Met Sally" or a "Boomerang" about a pair of normal Asian-Americans. [The New York Times]
- Forget the Met Gala. Here are some of the best, campiest looks from RuPaul's DragCon, which took over the Los Angeles Convention Center last weekend..[Vogue]

The Times in California

- If you couldn't make it to the event, watch Nahanatchka Khan, who directed the film "Always Be My Maybe," talk with Sopan Deb. [Times Events]

And Finally ...

Claudette Zepeda-Wilkins finishes a dish of vegetable enmoladas at El Jardín, one of the Bib Gourmand restaurants.CreditJohn Francis Peters for The New York Times

You may recall that when the Michelin Guide announced it was expanding to cover restaurants statewide it was kind of a big deal — the fact that the state's tourism board paid for that expansion notwithstanding.

In previous years, Michelin inspectors had hit only San Francisco.

That California guide, which will award restaurants across the state those coveted stars, is set to be released early next month.

On Tuesday, though, presumably to tide over diners hungry to try Michelin-anointed eats, the organization released its list of 151 Bib Gourmand restaurants from Sacramento to San Diego, where you can get meals of at least two courses, plus a glass of wine or a dessert, for \$40 or less.

In other words, it's a neat resource if your budget doesn't permit you to drop \$300 for dinner with any regularity.

The only other catch is that if you're on the Bib Gourmand list, you can't also be starred. Which means speculation has begun.

LA Times

Chinese tourism to U.S. drops for first time in 15 years

By Associated Press

After more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend.

Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7% in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, which collects data from U.S. Customs forms. It was the first time since 2003 that Chinese travel to the U.S. slipped from the prior year.

Friction between the U.S. and China is one reason for the slowdown. The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese solar panels and washing machines in January 2018, and the trade war has escalated from there. The U.S. now has a 25% tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, while China has retaliated with tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. imports.

Last summer, China issued a travel warning for the U.S., telling its citizens to beware of shootings, robberies and high costs for medical care. The U.S. shot back with its own warning about travel to China.

Wang Haixia, who works at an international trade company in Beijing, traveled to the U.S. in May for her sister's graduation. She and her family planned to spend 10 days in Illinois and New York.

Wang says she might have stayed longer but doesn't want to contribute to the U.S. economy amid the trade war.

"I cannot cancel this trip because I promised my sister I would go to her commencement," she said. "My relatives will contribute more than 100,000 yuan to America just staying for 10 days, and that's enough."

Los Angeles, however, is bucking the national trend.

Visitors from China set an all-time high of 1.2 million in 2018, a 6.9% increase from the previous year, making Los Angeles County the top-ranked U.S. city for Chinese travelers.

After a slight decline in 2017, the number of visitors from Mexico also reached a record, with 1.8 million guests, a 4% increase, according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. The number of visitors from Canada, Britain, Japan, Scandinavia and India also recorded substantial increases in 2018.

In response to President Trump's anti-immigration statements and efforts to ban travel from several predominantly Muslim countries, **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti** and other tourism officials created a campaign to send a message of welcome to tourists, especially from Mexico and largely Muslim countries.

The campaign featured a music video that appeared on social media sites in Canada, China, Mexico, Britain and Australia. In all, 7.5 million international travelers and 42.5 million domestic travelers came to Los Angeles last year.

However, economic uncertainty in China has travelers at the lower end of the market vacationing closer to home, says Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which found that 56% of travelers leaving China in the last three months of 2018 went to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan compared with 50% in 2017. Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal.

Chinese travel to the U.S. had already been moderating from its breakneck pace earlier this decade. In 2000, 249,000 Chinese visited the U.S. That tripled to 802,000 by 2010, then tripled again by 2015, in part because of higher incomes, better long-haul flight connections and an easing of visa restrictions, according to McKinsey, the consulting firm.

The U.S. welcomed more than 3 million Chinese visitors in 2016 and 2017. But year-over-year growth edged up just 4% in 2017, the slowest pace in more than a decade.

Most industry-watchers agree that any downturn is temporary, because China's middle class will only continue to expand. The U.S. government forecasts Chinese tourism will grow 2% this year to 3.3 million visitors, and will reach 4.1 million visitors in 2023.

"Even if the Chinese economy cools, it's still going to continue to be a very good source of growth for the travel industry," said David Huether, senior vice president of research for the U.S. Travel Assn.

In general, international travel to the U.S. has been declining. Overall data for 2018 haven't been released yet, but international travel fell 2% in 2016 and was flat in 2017.

Tourists from China pose for photographs at Rockefeller Center in New York on Nov. 12, 2017. (Kathy Willens / Associated Press)

But because China commands some of the highest tourism traffic to the U.S., any falloff will be felt by destinations that have come to rely on Chinese spending power. In 2017, the country had the fifth highest number of U.S.-bound tourists, behind Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. Ten years earlier, China wasn't even on the top 10 list, falling behind countries like Germany, France, South Korea and Australia, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office.

China didn't crack the top 10 list until 2011 and has been climbing ever since. Spending by Chinese visitors — which doesn't include students — ballooned more than 600% between 2008 and 2016, to nearly \$18.9 billion. In 2017, that fell by 1% to \$18.8 billion, or about 12% of overall tourism spending.

To hold onto those dollars, experts say the tourism industry must do more to keep up with Chinese travelers and their changing needs.

Larry Yu, a professor of hospitality management at George Washington University, notes that Chinese tourists — particularly younger ones — are increasingly planning trips using social media apps like WeChat and are less likely to book through big tour groups. They have also rapidly adopted smartphone-based payment systems.

Destinations should invest in those technologies now if they want to continue attracting Chinese tourists, says David Becker, former CEO of Attract China, a New York-based travel consultancy.

"A lot of companies looked at the Chinese market as easy money, but we have to be relevant to the Chinese," Becker said. Attract China, for instance, has helped luxury stores in Manhattan incorporate Jeenie, a live translation app, and add Alipay and WeChat Pay for mobile payments.

Others have also been stepping up their efforts. The Beverly Center mall in Los Angeles caters to busloads of Chinese tourists and mid-size groups. But now it also focuses on small groups of fewer than 10 VIP shoppers, says Susan Vance, the mall's marketing and sponsorship director. The mall has also pushed stores to offer China UnionPay, a digital payment service. More than 100 stores now have it, Vance says, up from three in 2014.

Tourism officials are also catching onto WeChat. In late 2017, Washington, D.C., became the first U.S. city to launch an interactive guide in the app. Chinese travelers can use it to get directions to attractions, access audio tours in Mandarin and find dining and shopping. The city's marketing office has one staff member dedicated to WeChat.

Washington also recently launched a Welcome China program that teaches hotels, restaurants and other venues about Chinese customs and encourages them to offer things like Chinese-language menus or in-room slippers. Forty-four hotels and a handful of restaurants have signed on.

Elliott Ferguson, president and CEO of Destination DC, the city's marketing office, said the number of Chinese tourists visiting Washington doubled in the last five years before falling slightly in 2017. But Ferguson, who traveled to China last month to meet with tourism officials, said there's still significant interest in travel to the U.S.

"We're beefing up our efforts because we see there's so much potential for growth," he said.

LA Times

Black market cannabis shops thrive in L.A. even as city cracks down

By JAMES QUEALLY and BEN WELSH

From the street, it looked like an old-school drug raid.

A half-dozen police and city vehicles sat near the entrance of the White Castle cannabis dispensary near the Los Angeles Harbor, where a sign bearing a giant green cross faced Pacific Coast Highway.

But the cops didn't seize any marijuana from the illegal shop. No one was arrested, just detained briefly while utility workers moved to shut off power. The officers had been there before and would likely be back. One detective guessed the business would be up and running again in a week.

Amid growing complaints from lawmakers and cannabis lobbyists about the city's teeming marketplace for unregulated weed, Los Angeles in recent months has ramped up enforcement against illegal pot dispensaries. But with so much money on the line, many violators are choosing to stay open even after the city has cut off their power or threatened them with arrests or fines.

The state's marijuana market got off to a sluggish start in 2018, with revenue from the first year of legal sales falling \$160 million short of what was projected in former Gov. Jerry Brown's final budget. High taxes and the refusal of many cities to allow legal cannabis sales have been blamed, while those restrictions have allowed a resilient black market to thrive.

Nowhere is that problem more glaring than in Los Angeles, where the number of illegal storefronts rivals legal dispensaries. In what should be the state's most lucrative pot market, many legitimate business operators say they can't compete with the hundreds of stores that are able to sell at a lower price by skirting taxes.

Pot entrepreneurs are running out of patience and money while waiting on L.A. permits
FEB 17, 2019 | 5:00 AM

More than 200 illegal marijuana dispensaries operate in L.A., according to police estimates and a Times review of city records and listings on Weedmaps, a popular online directory for marijuana businesses.

To identify potential scofflaws, The Times compared all storefronts on Weedmaps with a list of businesses granted temporary approval to operate by Los Angeles' Department of Cannabis Regulation. Only 182 marijuana dispensaries have permission to sell weed in the city, records show.

The review, conducted earlier this month, found 365 dispensaries advertised on Weedmaps inside city limits. Of those, more than 220 — 60% of the total — were operating at addresses not on the city's list of legal retailers.

The numbers provide only an estimate of the problem.

Listings on Weedmaps change frequently. Some shops targeted by city enforcement efforts may have shut down since The Times last reviewed the website's listings. But shops that are closed often open under new names, and not every illegal dispensary in the city advertises on the website.

Unregistered dispensaries were running in nearly every corner of Los Angeles, with the highest concentrations downtown and south of the 10 Freeway, The Times analysis found. Twelve can be found on a stretch of Florence Avenue between Crenshaw and Avalon boulevards.

Pot dispensaries in Los Angeles (Ben Welsh and Jon Schleuss / Los Angeles Times)

By mapping the legal and illegal storefronts in the city, The Times found large swaths of downtown and South L.A. are dominated by unlisted dispensaries. Legitimate shops, which can only sell cannabis at locations that meet specific requirements, such as being a certain distance away from a school, are more prevalent in the San Fernando Valley.

Exact statistics on the issue are difficult to find. A representative for the state Bureau of Cannabis Control said the agency did not have readily available data about illegal operators in California, and Los Angeles officials have never made public an exact number of illegal storefronts. The L.A. Police Department, however, has estimated the number of unregistered shops to be "less than 300."

Marijuana advocates say Los Angeles' struggle to curtail illegal activity is more severe than other cities in California, a result of years of allowing marijuana businesses to operate in a quasi-legal status in which they received limited immunity from prosecution.

"This is really a Los Angeles phenomenon ... I can't tell you where there would be an unlicensed dispensary operating in Oakland or San Francisco," said Dale Gieringer, director of California's branch of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Indeed, authorities tasked with overseeing the marijuana industry in San Francisco and Long Beach, said the number of unregulated dispensaries in those cities does not exceed the number of licensed operators.

Owners of legal stores in Los Angeles say illegal shops have a massive competitive advantage, as they offer lower prices by skirting the state's 15% cannabis sales tax as well as the city's 10% rate.

"The frustration for us is twofold," said Carlos de la Torre, who founded the Cornerstone Research Collective in Eagle Rock. "Our businesses are suffering tremendously now because we're having to compete in an unfair playing field, and we've spent all this time and energy and resources crafting something that should be really cut and dry, and it feels like [the city is] not really holding their end of the bargain up."

The proliferation of illegal stores affects marijuana customers, legal owners and government coffers. Aside from undercutting legal operators and curbing tax revenues, city officials are concerned about the health risks posed by stores whose wares are not tested by state regulators.

Some owners contend that many customers don't know the difference between legal and illegal marijuana businesses, and fear they are losing out by complying with state and city tax codes.

"The only bad reviews I get are 'Oh, you're trying to rip us off, these prices are too expensive,'" said Jerrod Kiloh, owner of the Higher Path dispensary in Sherman Oaks and president of the United Cannabis Business Assn. "I think a lot of them don't understand that the cost of doing business has gone up quite a bit."

Many legal owners say the problem is exacerbated by Weedmaps, a Yelp-like service for marijuana businesses.

"Without the voice that Weedmaps gives, 80% of them would disappear," De La Torre said.

Weedmaps did not respond to a request for comment.

Despite business owners' frustrations, the website is something of a double-edged sword: Officials with both the LAPD and the city attorney's office have said they use the online platform to identify targets for enforcement.

Still, council members and legal operators have criticized those agencies in recent months, arguing that a lack of stringent enforcement has allowed unlawful shops to flourish.

After recreational sales became legal in January 2018, obtaining funding and resources for enforcement has become a tougher sell within the LAPD, said Det. Lou Turriaga, a director with the Los Angeles Police Protective League. Until recently, Turriaga said, the department's cannabis support unit was operating on a "bare-bones budget." Local narcotics investigators are unlikely to prioritize enforcement against illicit dispensaries over other kinds of drug crime or violence in their divisions, he said.

The city has signaled it will take cannabis enforcement more seriously this year. Funding has been earmarked for cannabis regulation and a public awareness campaign to help customers learn to spot illegal sellers. **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** 2019 budget pushes \$10 million toward the LAPD for cannabis enforcement. And an ordinance introduced by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez also could result in illegal dispensary owners, and those they rent property from, having to cover the costs of any enforcement efforts enacted at their business.

Despite the large number of illegal businesses still operating in the city, officials contend they have aggressively pursued the issue. Since early 2018, City Atty. Mike Feuer said, his office has brought charges against more than 850 defendants and shut down 114 storefronts — with "many more on the way."

Feuer acknowledged the difficulty in permanently shutting down illegal operators. He said many of the stores his office has pursued have returned under different names, sometimes at the same location. Recently, the agency has begun to target property owners and more aggressively impose financial penalties, in the hopes that massive fines will act as deterrents.

Last month Feuer sued a South L.A. dispensary for selling cannabis that had been treated with a fungicide, which could result in millions in damages against the business.

"This is not just a question of supply, it's also a question of demand," he said. "I want very much for the message to be clear to potential buyers of recreational marijuana that it's just not worth the risk to go to an unpermitted location because they don't test their product and God knows what's in their product."

In March, the City Council passed an ordinance allowing the Department of Water & Power to shut off utilities at prohibited dispensaries. Shutoffs have been conducted at approximately 90 storefronts in the last two months, according to Det. Vito Ceccia of the LAPD's Gang and Narcotics Division. Most of the early efforts were concentrated in the Valley, though recently the department has begun focusing on outlaw operators in South L.A.

Investigators believe the utility shutoffs are more efficient than serving search warrants in pursuit of criminal prosecutions

that will probably result only in misdemeanor charges. On a recent afternoon, utility workers and detectives from the LAPD's Harbor Division cut the power at four illegal shops in less than three hours. Ceccia said they would have been able to execute only one search warrant in the same time frame.

"We see an uptick in these businesses opening up because it's so profitable, especially if they're not paying the taxes they're supposed to be paying," he said. "A majority of them have reopened and that's why we're looking at our partners like DWP to find other resources beyond law enforcement and traditional methods in order to shut these places down."

Police can still seize marijuana and cash from an illegal business if they execute a search warrant in a criminal investigation. But with all criminal penalties for illegal sale or cultivation of marijuana reduced to misdemeanors under Proposition 64, city officials believe civil fines and utility shutdowns are more effective and less labor intensive.

In Los Angeles, Feuer said his office can push for a \$2,500-per-day unfair competition penalty against illegal sellers. Under the voter initiative that established Los Angeles' marijuana market, the city can also seek a \$20,000 daily penalty against illegal operators, though Feuer has rarely used this tactic and said it had yet to be "tested in court."

Many involved in the cannabis industry also have expressed frustration that regulators have been slow to approve dispensary permits — especially those that would fall under a social equity program meant to allow members of communities most affected by criminal marijuana enforcement to get into the legal market.

The city is expected to issue another 250 storefront licenses, which would more than double the number of legal dispensaries in the city, but that process will not begin until September at the earliest, said Sylvia Robledo, public information director for the Department of Cannabis Regulation. The agency expects to be able to issue approximately 400 licenses before it butts up against the city's restrictions against having too many dispensaries concentrated in any particular neighborhood.

The long-term effect of the city's enforcement strategies is unclear.

Although the utility shutdowns have disrupted some operations, many businesses have also simply reopened after obtaining an external generator. The detective who guessed the White Castle dispensary near Wilmington would be back in business in a week was almost right.

An employee confirmed the shop was open when a Times reporter called 10 days later.

Streetsblog LA

This Week In Livable Streets

By Joe Linton

Purple Line subway celebration, South El Monte bike tour, Metro CEO Phil Washington, and more.

- Thursday 5/30 – The Transit Coalition will host CEO Phil Washington speaking on current developments at Metro. The talk will take place from 6-9 p.m. at Metro headquarters third floor Union Station Conference Room at 1 Gateway Plaza, behind Union Station in downtown L.A. Purchase tickets via EventBrite.
- Saturday 6/1 – The city of South El Monte will host a free Community Bike Ride. Ride gathers at 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. departure from the South El Monte Community Center at 1530 Central Avenue. Details at South El Monte webpage or Facebook event.
- Sunday 6/2 – Metro will host a community celebration in honor of the Westside Purple Line subway extension phase 1 project passing 50 percent completion. The celebration will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in lawn area of the La Brea Tar Pits Page Museum at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard in Mid-City. Event will include live entertainment, games, raffles, food trucks, family fun zone and remarks by **Mayor Eric Garcetti** and Metro CEO Phil Washington. Details at Facebook event.
- Next week Tuesday 6/4 – Next week will be the city of Los Angeles council district 12 – northwest San Fernando Valley – special election (also on the wider county ballot is school funding measure EE.) To get involved consider volunteering with Bike the Vote L.A.
- Next week Sunday 6/9 – The L.A. County Bicycle Coalition will host the 19th Annual L.A. River Ride. Participants can choose from various rides touring the L.A. River between Griffith Park and Long Beach. Proceeds benefit the Bicycle Coalition's work to make L.A. vibrant, healthy, and sustainable. Sign-up at the LACBC website.

LA School Report

\$500M annual parcel tax unlikely to pass if low voter turnout trend persists, poll shows

By: Taylor Swaak

L.A. Unified's proposed \$500 million annual parcel tax is unlikely to pass next week if low voter turnout trends continue, a new independent poll finds.

The poll, conducted by Probolsky Research, shows that if June 4's special election sees "high" turnout, or 17 percent of the district's 2.5 million eligible voters, the parcel tax could be on the cusp of meeting the two-thirds majority required to pass. But with a "low" turnout of 8 percent — which falls just below the reported turnout for the recent Board District 5 school board race — the odds decrease.

The Measure EE tax would charge residents within L.A. Unified boundaries 16 cents per square foot of developed property, generating an estimated \$6 billion over 12 years for district schools. The tax's supporters, who include district officials, the teachers union and **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, see Measure EE as a necessary investment in the public schools. L.A. Unified also can't currently afford its \$840 million teachers contract — signed after January's strike — and has to fix its grim budget projections to appease county overseers who have threatened a fiscal takeover.

The tax proposal has attracted a swath of vocal advocates and opponents. Yet there's been scant publicized polling on resident sentiment leading up to the vote, said Adam Probolsky, the polling firm's president. The last poll of likely L.A. voters on a parcel tax was conducted in February on behalf of the district.

"When we see this vacuum, this data void [on] something that so many people really care passionately about ... we really think the public should know about it, see it, be able to digest it," Probolsky said. He noted that the polling was done in the public interest and that the organization, which is nonpartisan and isn't linked to any Measure EE campaigns, did not receive funding for the poll from an outside source.

Probolsky Research conducted the poll on May 16 and May 17 with 400 likely L.A. Unified voters who were identified with "random sampling methodology to ensure that the demographic proportions of survey respondents match the composition" of likely voters, according to the poll's stated methodology. Half of the respondents were interviewed by phone; half took an online survey. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points for results based on the full sample. (Read more about how the poll was conducted [here](#).)

The takeaways

If 17 percent of registered voters in L.A. Unified cast a ballot, 61.8 percent would likely vote "yes" and 32 percent would vote "no," the poll found. But 6 percent were a "firm unsure" — making a "yes" vote attainable if campaigning leading up to the election sways the bulk of undecided voters to approve the measure.

If only 8 percent of voters turn out, polling predicted that the best-case scenario for the parcel tax — if all of the "unsure" voters got on board — would be a 62.5 percent approval rate. This would fail to meet the 66.7 percent threshold.

Source: Probolsky Research

An earlier February poll conducted on the heels of the teacher strike found 72 percent and 69 percent of L.A. Unified residents approved a 16 cent per square foot parcel tax in higher and lower turnout cases, respectively.

Fernando Guerra, a professor and founding director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, which conducts the L.A. Votes exit poll, agrees that turnout is paramount to the tax's success. Special elections typically draw 10 percent or less of eligible voters because they don't line up with regularly scheduled elections.

"Residents and voters are more inclined to support the school district today than any time in the past, so that bodes well," he said, citing an LMU survey. "All it is about turning out the vote."

Next week's election is likely to attract more voters than a school board race because a parcel tax has "a very direct impact" on individuals, Guerra said. But he added that the parcel tax is still facing "a double degree of difficulty" as a special election.

"There needs to be an incredible effort to inform voters, No. 1 that there's an election happening, and then obviously for the proponents, to inform them of the importance of voting 'yes,'" he said.

Board President Mónica García told LA School Report earlier this month that this was the primary focus of L.A. Unified's information campaign. The district's job "is to make sure that our school community [is] having a conversation about impact, [about] 'Yes' or 'No' on EE," she said. "What is it? What does it mean? How does it impact the world of choices?"

Newly seated school board member Jackie Goldberg has also made Measure EE her main focus since her board win. She promoted it on election night and at her swearing-in ceremony.

There have been impassioned arguments for and against the tax. Some of that energy draws from local exasperation with the low achievement scores plaguing the district. When the poll asked the same people who had weighed in on the parcel tax whether they believe students attending L.A. Unified schools get a high-quality education, 44.3 percent said "no" while

35.8 percent responded “yes.” The remaining 20 percent were unsure or refrained from answering.

Source: Probolsky Research

Many of those who said they are voting “yes” see new taxpayer revenue as instrumental in moving the needle. “Education requires and deserves a lot more support at this point in time,” one potential voter told Probolsky Research.

“It takes money to do everything great,” another Measure EE backer said.

Some of those polled who voted no, however — the vast majority of whom denounced any more taxes in general — said it wasn’t their job to fix the district. “We’re putting out more money than we should be for the education that the kids are getting now,” one respondent said.

“I think L.A. Unified School District is poorly run, poorly managed, and I’m not voting for it,” another stated. This belief mirrors one of the major arguments of the Vote No on EEd campaign, which is spearheaded by business and taxpayer organizations who say the district is unaccountable and are demanding reform before further investment in the school system.

Yusef Robb, the campaign manager for Yes on EE, had not seen the poll and declined to comment on its findings. But he emphasized that there’s strong support for the tax.

“LAUSD politics can be quite dramatic and quite divisive, but on Measure EE there is unity amongst all quote-unquote sides for this measure, because it’s not a political statement,” Robb said. “It’s about investing in the basics of our education system.”

The low turnout trend

The latest example of the lower turnout trend in local special elections was the May 14 runoff for school board, where 9.2 percent of Board District 5’s more than 314,000 registered voters cast ballots, according to the county’s election certification on Friday.

Turnout for that race was lower in predominantly minority, lower-income neighborhoods — a general election trend that’s exacerbated by special elections. For example, in the northern part of Board District 5, which is whiter and more affluent, turnout stood at about 10 percent, compared to 4.2 percent in the southern part of the board district, which is almost entirely Latino and lower income, according to initial precinct-by-precinct data.

Across L.A. Unified, at least 4 in 5 students are from low-income families. Nearly three-quarters are Latino.

Suggestions to boost turnout in local elections have included allowing 16-year-olds and undocumented residents to vote in L.A. Unified’s elections and curtailing campaign habits of targeting people who already vote consistently.

There are also steps already being taken. L.A. County in March 2020 will start using “vote centers” instead of neighborhood polling places and offer same-day voter registration. L.A. Unified will line up its elections with even-year primary and general elections next year as well.

Guerra said he believes the most effective way to increase turnout and empower voters is to just never hold special elections — period.

“We need to do a much better job in creating elections that matter and getting rid of the obstacles to participate,” he said. “Having too many elections dilutes that effort.”

Also appeared in: The 74

Fox and Hounds Daily

Mayoral Mismatch

By Joel Kotkin

Mayors have had little success in becoming president, with only one big-city chief executive, Grover Cleveland of Buffalo, later governor of New York, actually making it to the White House. Yet this year’s running of the donkeys includes several: a minor-city chief executive, Pete Buttigieg of South Bend; a former big-city mayor, Cory Booker of Newark; former San Antonio mayor Julian Castro; and John Hickenlooper, formerly chief executive of Denver before becoming Colorado’s governor. They may yet be joined by New York’s Bill de Blasio. Los Angeles mayor **Eric Garcetti** considered a run but thought better of it, perhaps realizing that his city’s burgeoning homeless population and rampant inequality would dog him on the campaign trail. The other mayors’ records are not much better than **Garcetti’s**, but they didn’t hesitate to jump in.

Buttigieg's record is nothing remarkable. South Bend remains plagued by racial tension and a high murder rate. Buttigieg's big challenge, according to Slate's woke take, is whether being gay will make up for the unfortunate reality that he is also white and male, especially given his failure to embrace "the idea of gayness as a cultural framework, formative identity, or anything more than a category of sexual and romantic behavior."

As mayor of Newark, Cory Booker was an improvement over the corrupt Sharpe James, particularly in attracting philanthropic investment, but he left behind the same crime-ridden, impoverished municipality. Castro, as CityLab has noted, operated under a weak-mayor system, and his city's healthy economy owed more to Texas's free-market allure and policies of earlier mayors than to anything that he accomplished. Hickenlooper, a rare species of pragmatic Democrat, was arguably more successful than the others, but his greatest accomplishment, the expansion of Denver's troubled transit system, has become plagued by overruns and declining ridership. In any case, Hickenlooper, the most attractive of the mayoral brood, has made no impression in the polls and seems destined to finish out the race on the sidelines.

As for the ethically challenged de Blasio, he inherited a strong economy, now adjusting down to the national average—which, to be fair, is a lot better than Los Angeles and Chicago, which rank well behind in job creation.

So why mayors for president? A popular notion says that mayors are uniquely positioned to "rule the world," as political theorist Benjamin Barber put it. City boosters like Parag Khannasee mayors as running the vital and creative parts of the world, and thus as the natural leaders of the future. But much of this thinking misses an important qualification concerning population. Reporters frequently see big-city mayors as representatives of the vast, economically dominant metropolitan areas. But in nearly every American major metro, including even New York, the population of the core municipality is topped by that of the metro periphery. In New York, de Blasio presides over less than 45 percent of the metro-area population; in some cities, like Atlanta and Miami, the mayor governs less than one in ten regional residents. On average, little more than one-quarter of major metropolitan area residents live in the core municipalities, many in neighborhoods little different than the suburbs around them.

Contrary to what you might hear in the mainstream press, Americans are not flocking to core cities. Big-city mayors are, in relative terms, losing constituents. Last year, the counties containing America's three largest cities—New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago—all lost population. Since 2010, a net 1.8 million people have moved away from the urban core counties of major metropolitan areas, largely to lower-density counties. As they start owning property, getting married, and having children, millennials are driving this trend. Since 2010, 80 percent of millennial population growth has been in the suburbs, where single-family houses predominate. New York City now suffers the largest net annual outmigration of post-college millennials (ages 25 to 34) of any metro area—some 38,000 annually—followed by Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Diego. New York's losses are 75 percent higher than during the previous five-year period.

The view that dense core cities will dominate the future is misplaced. It's the metropolitan areas—from the core to the far periphery—that really matter. In some cases, notably New York, the cores remain the most pivotal places in the metro areas, but Gotham is an exception to an increasingly multipolar urban landscape. For most mayors, prosperity relies on their relationship with the periphery; cities without viable suburbs and beyond will find themselves unable to hold onto employees as they age.

A common argument for the central importance of mayors is economic. In some industries—social media, high finance, communications, and tourism—a few big cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco, have achieved considerable dominance. But, since 2010, more than 80 percent of metropolitan job growth, particularly that which employs middle-class workers, has taken place in the suburbs. This is not a matter of low-income jobs concentrating on the periphery. In reality, lower-density areas account for the vast majority of new patents, a key indicator of competitive economic innovation. Since 1970, according to a recent Harvard study, suburbs have outperformed their urban counterparts in terms of jobs, income, and educational achievement; despite the urban "boom" earlier this century, the pattern remained very much the same since 2000.

Cities and suburbs play different roles in the innovation economy. Core cities excel at innovation detached from the physical world, but tech companies that actually make things or apply innovation to the physical world are moving to suburban areas, such as north Dallas—home to several former California companies, including McKesson and Toyota America—or, in Apple's case, to suburban Williamson County, outside Austin. They need the space and the access to mature talent that gravitates to suburban neighborhoods.

The employment patterns of large cities—dependent on high-wage, high-education-dependent sectors—also tend to accentuate the inequality that progressive mayors complain so much about. Indeed, according to Pew, the largest gaps between the bottom and top quintiles are found in the most progressive metropolitan areas: San Francisco, New York, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Boston are the five least-equal cities in America. In all these "superstar" cities, the middle-class family is rapidly disappearing, even as poverty remains stubbornly high. Teachers, firemen, and police officers struggle to afford homes in many American cities, according to a study from Trulia. This pricing-out also applies to many skilled blue-collar professionslike technicians, construction workers, and mechanics. In California, according to a recent

study, not one union construction worker could afford a median-priced house in Los Angeles, San Francisco, or surrounding areas.

Yo! Venice

MTA Bridge Housing Operator Chosen, Injunction Denied

By Sam Catanzaro

A homeless shelter in the heart of Venice will open this summer and be operated by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), Councilmember Mike Bonin recently announced.

On May 16, the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority selected PATH along with Safe Place for Youth (SPY) to manage and operate the bridge housing facility set to open in Venice this summer.

PATH, one of the nation's most successful and respected homeless service providers, will be the lead operator of the site and will work with the Venice-based SPY, which will also provide services at the temporary facility, which will provide 100 beds for adults and 54 beds for youth.

"I am thrilled to be moving forward with such an excellent team," said Councilmember Mike Bonin. "PATH and SPY are highly regarded service providers with a history of success, years of experience in the community, and a great track record of working with neighbors. I am confident they will make Bridge Home Venice a success."

The 154-bed homeless shelter, part of Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** A Bridge Home program, will be located on the 3.15-acre lot that takes up an entire block between Pacific Avenue and Main Street south of Sunset Avenue. In this program, Mayor **Garcetti** asked every Councilmember to look at encampments in their district and to find locations for bridge housing.

MTA closed the lot in 2015 after receiving multiple offers from developers interested in the site. The property can be used for housing for the next three years, however, because there is no deal in place.

The project has not been without controversy. Opponents have raised issue with the shelter's location, worrying that the site will disrupt the mostly residential neighborhood. In addition, there has been concern raised about the housing being within a 1,000-foot radius of Westminster Elementary School.

Less than a week before PATH and SPY were announced as the operators for the facility, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge denied an injunction that would have halted construction the homeless shelter.

On May 10, Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff said that the City of Los Angeles could proceed with the construction of the 154-bed homeless shelter.

The judge noted that objections expressed by neighbors, namely that the shelter would disrupt a residential neighborhood, were understandable, but agreed with the city's claim that not building the shelter would provide greater harm to residents now living on sidewalks.

Councilmember Mike Bonin applauded the decision saying "I am enormously grateful for this decision, which allows us to move forward. No one deserves to live on a sidewalk, and no one deserves to have encampments in their neighborhoods."

PATH, which practices the nationally-recognized Housing First approach, operates three other bridge housing locations in Los Angeles. The organization, started on the Westside in the 1980s, provides short-term and permanent housing, case management, medical and mental healthcare, benefits advocacy, employment training, and other services. Since 2013, PATH has connected more than 8,500 people to permanent homes.

"Bridge housing is an important first step in the process of moving our most vulnerable into permanent supportive housing," said Jennifer Hark-Dietz, Deputy CEO of PATH. "Venice Bridge Home is a sign of progress and it is of the utmost importance that elected officials, landlords, the nonprofit sector and neighborhood leaders continue to work together to find and build housing for those in need."

SPY, founded in 2011 in Venice, serves homeless youth, ages 12-25. The group provides transitional housing, street outreach, drop-in services, case management, health and wellness, education and employment programs.

"Having access to Bridge Housing is critical when working on providing stability to youth experiencing homelessness," said Alison Hurst, Executive Director of Safe Place for Youth. "An alternative to the streets will give young people the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive living environment, while we work with them on long term solutions for their homeless crisis."

Both agencies have experience in the community. Several years ago, PATH helped house more than 100 people who were living in their vehicles in Venice and recently partnered with Los Angeles World Airports to serve and successfully house people living in large encampments near LAX. The organization operates transitional housing in West LA and provides permanent supportive housing at a building in Del Rey. SPY launched in Venice, focuses its services there, and has its headquarters and drop-in center there. SPY also jointly operates bridge housing for youth at locations in Mar Vista and Westwood.

The City of Los Angeles has opened 4 bridge housing facilities, has approved 12 others, and is evaluating 10 other locations. A second bridge housing site in Bonin's council district — 100 beds for homeless veterans — is under construction in Brentwood on the VA campus.

Bridge Home Venice, located on a Metro-owned former bus yard on Main Street, near some of Venice's largest encampments, will open in late summer. Construction will begin on the site in a few weeks.

HR Technologist

The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation Partners with Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology to pilot WorkforceReady

By Mayuri Chaudhary

The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed by learning and human capital management software provider Cornerstone OnDemand (CSOD), has announced a new partnership with the Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology. The Center, a division of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce non-profit organization, is dedicated to connecting underserved talent to opportunity through entrepreneurship and workforce development. Working with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, Bixel Exchange will pilot WorkforceReady, a free online learning program designed to help job seekers build the foundational skills required to be successful in today's work environment.

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs report, "human" skills like collaboration, initiative, and critical thinking are becoming increasingly important in the modern workforce. But many of today's job seekers aren't receiving training for the non-technical skills that are necessary to both find and keep a job. Skills including job interview preparation, networking, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking are particularly lacking in workers who have been disconnected from the workforce or who are entering the job market for the first time.

HR Technology News: Absorb Software Announces Acquisition of Torch LMS

WorkforceReady will help bridge the learning gap of the new workforce. This program will offer short, online courses for students to develop these essential non-technical skills. The program leverages Cornerstone's 20 years of expertise in learning technology and people development and will help participants across industries become job-ready.

In collaboration with Bixel Exchange, WorkforceReady will launch a pilot program this summer with students participating in Bixel Exchange's L.A. Tech Talent Pipeline program. The L.A. Tech Talent Pipeline, a partnership with L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, connects low-income, diverse students to careers in the technology and creative economy sectors. WorkforceReady will provide free, online courses designed to ensure these students are prepared for opportunities with Bixel Exchange's participating companies.

This partnership with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation will ensure the students entering the program will have the requisite skills to transition and contribute to their new workplace. The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation plans to add more organizations to the pilot program in the coming months.

"One of the most successful ways to place someone in a job and increase job retention is through the full spectrum of professional training," says Julie Brandt, executive director, the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation. "We're excited about the opportunity for WorkforceReady to make this training accessible to a wider audience."

"Talent is equally distributed. Opportunity is not. Our mission is to connect talent to opportunity," said Sean Arian, president, and co-founder of Bixel Exchange. "WorkforceReady will allow us to better prepare students for the dynamic job market, and ultimately create more career pathways for students in the LA area."

Liberation News

The struggle is in the streets: LA's ruling class attacks the houseless

By Katerina Moore

Planters filled with succulents and cacti, sidewalk art installations, narrow benches with armrests. These decorative accents are seen in cities across the United States, but we should not be fooled by their ornamental facade. They're examples of a phenomenon known as "hostile architecture" — the component pieces of our built environment carefully designed to ward off unwanted occupants — and, according to emails obtained through the California Public Records Act, part of a calculated effort by the City of Los Angeles and its ruling class to further displace people experiencing

homelessness. According to the latest 2019 homeless count in Los Angeles County, this population now consists of over 50,000 people.

Although houseless people face hostility and humiliation anywhere they are forced to stay, Los Angeles has doubled down on its campaign of hostility in the wake of a homelessness crisis that has reached epidemic proportions. In a disturbing chain of emails published by MichaelKohlhaas.org, a blog by investigative journalists exposing local treatment of the homeless population, city officials and local business owners brainstormed ways to ways to drive out residents without permanent shelter.

"Is there an update on how we can stop the encampment being provided with fresh, untouched food?" asked Rebecca Vasak of JAHZ Properties. After a long email chain and several closed door meetings with law enforcement representatives, the group agreed to collectively cover sidewalks with unauthorized planters and community art under the guise of "beautification," forcing people experiencing homelessness to move their tents elsewhere.

Adrian Riskin, a writer for MichaelKohlhaas.org, spoke to Liberation News about the war being waged on houseless Angelenos. Riskin explained that although the creation of hostile environments is a tactic with a long history in LA, the problem goes much deeper than illegal sidewalk planters. "An environment can be made hostile towards the homeless by privatizing it," he said. Special Enforcement Zones, for example, are areas in which the LAPD practices what Riskin describes as "hyper-enforcement of anti-homeless laws," ostensibly in protection of the needs of local businesses.

Nowhere is the influence of private interest on public space more aggressive than in Hollywood's Business Improvement District, where private security guards – collectively funded by local businesses – collaborate with the LAPD to arrest houseless people at rates unseen in the rest of the city. Although fewer than 300 residents experiencing homelessness live within the district at any given time, the number of arrests made by BID patrols exceeded 1,000 per year in recent years.

That number has dropped (largely due to scrutiny from MichaelKohlhaas.org, according to public records), but the criminalization of homelessness continues in the Hollywood BID and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, private security employees outnumber LAPD officers in the Los Angeles area by over seven to one, comprising unaccountable private armies mobilized by the rich to defend their property.

Los Angeles City Council has passed a multitude of laws that are unmistakably meant to punish unsheltered people. Sitting or lying on the sidewalk is prohibited, and "bulky items" can't be stored on the sidewalk (except tents, but they must be taken down between the hours of 6 am-9 pm). Urinating in public is illegal, even if there are no public restrooms nearby. The LA City Council additionally voted recently to extend harsh restrictions on sleeping in cars – restrictions which activists say are tantamount to a ban. Although these ordinances can also affect people with reliable shelter, Riskin says the discretionary basis on which the LAPD and BID security guards enforce them show clearly that their primary purpose is to push people experiencing homelessness out of areas where powerful people don't want them to be visible.

As senior LAPD officer Eddie Guerra said in the email chain about sidewalk planters: "We are in the displacement business." Business, clearly, is booming. Los Angeles was home to an estimated 52,765 houseless people in 2018 – including roughly 5,000 children, 4,000 veterans, 5,000 elderly people, and 3,000 people fleeing domestic violence. Over 25 percent of Angelenos experiencing homelessness have a serious mental illness, and another 15 percent battles a substance use disorder. Even though LA **Mayor Eric Garcetti** anticipates a "double-digit increase" this year, the city's response to the crisis continues to be ineffectual at best, with unfulfilled promises to build fifteen temporary shelters that would house a tiny fraction of those who need shelter.

The failure to support the tens of thousands of Angelenos experiencing homelessness isn't, as **Garcetti** claims, due to a lack of resources – in Los Angeles, an economic hub of the most prosperous state in the country, the failure is due entirely to a lack of political will. Studies show that providing permanent supportive housing for those who are chronically houseless actually saves money. The only reason we lack the resources to sufficiently address homelessness is because those resources are being boarded and used elsewhere—such as the construction of a \$2.2 billion luxury office building for city employees.

It would be foolish to expect local government to solve the crisis in any meaningful way, because the "displacement business" is an excellent investment. The wealthy elite need to blame homelessness on those experiencing it. Surely their circumstances are the result of poor decisions, laziness, some fundamental flaw in their very being. We need to keep them off the sidewalks—in fact, get them out of the city. We don't want to look at them.

And here lies the crux of the matter. If people experiencing homelessness weren't made invisible, we would be forced to confront the crisis directly – and that would mean confronting the system that not only allows homelessness to exist, but necessarily preserves its existence.

Under capitalism, our basic necessities – food, housing, healthcare, work – aren't guaranteed. Edible food is destroyed to artificially inflate prices while children go hungry. National homelessness statistics tell us that an estimated 553,000

people sleep in the streets each night, while nearly 6 million housing units sit vacant. The exorbitant price of healthcare causes people to die of preventable illnesses every day.

Anyone taking a cursory look at the immense wealth that already exists in this country will see that we have more than what is needed to fulfill the material needs of society. With a rationally planned socialist economy, we can harness our full productive capacity to guarantee housing, food, healthcare, and employment to every person in the United States. This is the task ahead of the U.S. working class—we must organize and fight, because changing the streets of the United States can change the streets of the world.

The Bulwark

The Democratic Debates Are Going To Be a Clownshow

by MOLLY JONG-FAST

Debate me, you coward! You, too! And you and you and you and you and you!

We're a month from the first tranche of Democratic debates in Miami. Florida has not been good to the Democratic party, but I'm sure this time will be different. Besides the obvious appeal of alligators and meth, there's nothing quite as delicious as summer in the tropics.

And it's hard not to notice the very obvious differences from the last primary cycle. For one thing, instead of a race between two people and the guy who was a character on *The Wire*, we have binders full of candidates.

How many? As of this writing, we have 23 declared candidates—and that's after a whole slew of kind-of, sort-of pols tiptoed up to the water's edge before pulling back. You might think 23 is a lot—it's probably 15 too many, to be honest—but we could easily have been at 28 if Stacey Abrams, Sherrod Brown, Mike Bloomberg, **Eric Garcetti**, and Deval Patrick had run. And all of them took good, hard looks at the race.

This bumper crop of candidates is going to require that the Democratic National Committee do things a little differently. This time, they're not with her, or him, or anyone, and this time they're not going to let their emails get hacked by the Ruskies and released by the albino rapist who lives in the cupboard under the stairs. No sirree. They're going to things totally differently this time.

And the first step is presenting all of these luscious candidates to voters in the best, most logical manner possible. So the DNC is bending over backward to create the most fair, inclusive, respectful, diverse, and enormous debate stage ever. The DNC will not have a kids' table, unlike the GOP's 2016 debate.

It's to the DNC's credit that they have been incredibly transparent about how to get into the debates. And it's actually pretty easy. Maybe even too easy. Okay, real talk: It's definitely too easy. For example if you have a full Subway rewards card, you can choose a spot in the debates or a free sub. As of right now there are approximately one trillion people qualified to be in the debates, including a small-town Midwestern mayor, the congresswoman from Hawaii, and a retired tech guy. Because God is just, wise, and hilarious, the mayor of New York City (and noted groundhog slayer) has not yet qualified.

But the truth is, there really are going to be way too many candidates onstage to make the debates anything other than a clusterfuck of clusterfuckery. Right now, you can qualify for the debate by either having 65,000 people to donate to you, or by polling over 1 percent in three DNC-approved polls. But all of that may change, and in fact it has! As I was working on this piece the DNC announced a new rule change in which candidates polling over 2 percent will be randomly allocated between the two debates, so as to prevent from having a kids' table.

I know what you're thinking: Wait a minute. Most polls have a margin of error around +/-4 points. Which means that any candidate polling under 4 percent is basically within the margin of error and that pretending that there's any meaningful statistical difference between a candidate at 1 percent and a candidate at 2 percent is kind of mathematically illiterate.

But wait, there's more: The DNC also decided that the total participation will be capped at 20. Which means that three of the major ("major"?) candidates won't be invited.

And here's where it gets positively bananas: The Hill says that 19 people have already qualified. The pointy-heads at FiveThirtyEight figures that the real number is 20. (Even people who do this for a living can't keep it all perfectly straight.) But everyone agrees that one of the people sure to be onstage will be Marianne Williamson. Whom you may remember from her role as officiant at Elizabeth Taylor's wedding. Or as besties with Oprah. Or from being a spiritual advisor to Cher. (Reminder: Bill de Blasio, the current mayor of New York City, will not make the debates. But Marianne Williamson will. Just sit with that for a moment.)

So, what happens now? Well, if anyone else qualifies, then the DNC will put into effect its hastily drawn-up tiebreak rules.

Here's FiveThirtyEight trying valiantly to explain them:

If more than 20 candidates qualify under the first set of debate rules, then meeting both the polling and donor requirements will become very important—candidates who do so will get first dibs on debate lecterns. After that, though, things start to get complicated.

If more than 20 candidates hit both the polling and donor thresholds, the 20 candidates with the highest polling average would be included in the debate. . . .

If fewer than 20 candidates meet both standards but more than 20 qualify via the polling method, those who meet both criteria would qualify first and the remaining spots would be filled by those with the highest polling average. To calculate this, the DNC is planning to average the top three survey results for each candidate, rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. That is, the tiebreaker will be calculated using the polls where a candidate performed best, not necessarily the most recent polls. If that average results in a tie for the last spot(s) on the stage, the tied candidates will be ranked by the total number of qualifying polls they submitted to the DNC.

However, if fewer than 20 candidates hit both qualifying criteria and fewer than 20 qualify via the polling method, the DNC and its media partners (NBC and Telemundo in June and CNN in July) would first invite all candidates who reach both the polling and donor thresholds and then any others who meet the polling requirement. After that, the remaining debate slots would be filled by those who have the highest number of unique donors.

Seems simple enough. I'm sure Democrats across this great land of ours will see the wisdom and fairness in DNC chairman Tom Perez' plan.

Or, as a consultant for one of the Democratic campaigns put it, "Tom Perez is such a goddamned weenie."

In fairness to Perez, being chairman of the DNC right now might be the worst job in America. Because realistically speaking, what is he supposed to do with these debates?

It's easy to say that Mike Gravel shouldn't be on the debate stage, because he's 89, he's a former senator from Alaska, he's not doing events, and his "campaign" is basically a stalking horse for a bunch of really adorable anti-war teenagers.

And it's easy to say that the big five—Biden, Bernie, Mayor Pete, Elizabeth Warren, and Kamala Harris—should be in.

And it's comparatively easy to say that the next tier of serious candidates with actual campaigns—Cory Booker and Beto—should be there.

After that? If the rest of the field was comprised of just Hickenlooper, Gillibrand, and Inslee, you'd just say, Fine. Come on in.

But it's not just those three. It's those three plus thirteen other people. All of whom pretty much live in the same tiny sliver within the margin of error.

And because the Democratic National Committee is killing itself to show maximum transparency, it doesn't want to be seen as thumbing the scales against Mean Amy or the Groundhog Slayer or Mr. Clean.

And look, maybe the DNC is right not to. Maybe the insane 17-level tiebreaker system won't actually matter because no one down at that end of the spectrum is going to end up as the nominee, anyway.

But on the other hand, as Chris Christie showed, a skilled, motivated loser is perfectly capable of mortally wounding a real contender on a debate stage.

At some point, Perez might have to start thinking less about hurting the feelings of the people who aren't going to be his party's nominee, and more about advancing the prospects of the people who might be.

Grit Daily

THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM LA: FASHION

By Noah Staum

Los Angeles restated its commitment to being a sustainability leader last month with **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** announcement of LA's Green New Deal.

Meanwhile, local brands are quietly making progress in one of the largest polluting industries in the world: fashion.

As a fashion mecca, the culture and leadership of LA's fashion designers and boutiques are important influencers.

However, the fashion industry has many long-rooted unsustainable practices that continue to drain the earth of premium resources and add to its pollution problem.

Most significantly, Global Fashion Agenda predicts that the industry's water consumption will grow 150 percent to 31.7 trillion gallons per year by 2030 and its carbon waste will balloon to 148 million tons.

The overarching problem is complex and deeply rooted in existing production, sourcing, and purchasing patterns. Since the fashion industry is one of the largest in the world, it also has one of the longest supply chains, generating more pollutants and waste. Many industry leaders question the viability of a large-scale sustainable fashion enterprise in the context of the success and popularity of the fast fashion industry (Zara, H&M, Forever21, and the like).

In response, several fashion brands have emerged in LA with a focus on sustainability. They aim to become leaders in changing the fashion industry's longstanding practices.

GALERIE.LA

Celebrity stylist Dechel Mckillian created GALERIE.LA in 2015 to curate brands that create "fashion with integrity."

Mckillian has used her clout from working with the likes of Drake, Nicki Minaj, the Black Eyed Peas, and more to bring an focus on sustainable fashion into the overall industry without sacrificing style and design. Around 40 percent of the products she carries are sourced from LA.

CHRISTY DAWN

Christy Dawn is one of the most well known LA sustainable fashion brands on Instagram. Not only does the brand — the namesake of its creator — exemplify the essence of LA fashion, it is also completely transparent about its sourcing, design, and production processes. Because they use a local supply chain, it's easy to follow. All of their pieces are made in LA from deadstock fabric (surplus or incorrect fabrics from other brands that couldn't be used).

"Textile production and printing requires the use of hundreds of toxic chemicals. We couldn't in good faith create our own fabrics knowing that we'd be adding to an already alarming environmental problem. We all have a responsibility to ask 'How can we minimize our impact on the environment?'" Dawn said in an interview with Forbes last year.

REFORMATION

Similar to Christy Dawn, Reformation uses deadstock fabric and recycled fabrics to produce all of their pieces. The brand puts "sustainability at the core of everything," which is why they publish annual sustainability reports for the public to see. The reports include their carbon footprint and progress the business has made to improve sustainability from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE APPAREL

The name of this quaint looking shop in Venice says it all. Alternative Apparel offers more universal sustainable fashion for men, women, and children. They focus on producing comfortable, casual fashion basics like t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jeans — anything that's a staple of your wardrobe. To minimize their waste packaging waste, they use biodegradable mailers for their online shop. The practice also reduces water use and minimizes CO2 waste.

LACAUSA

Lacausa puts their money where their mouth is when it comes to sustainability and support the local LA community. After all, "La Causa" is Spanish for "the cause." In addition to practicing sustainable production right in LA, Lacausa donates a portion of all their sales to various charities. Rebecca Grenell started the brand in 2013.

"We're very serious about working with fair factories and vendors," Grenell said to Racked.



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages
LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain
REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president
REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
LA DAILY NEWS: Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
LAIST: LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
LA TACO: 'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
SCNG: Opinion: As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
LA TIMES: Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
FIVE THIRTY EIGHT: How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
ASSOCIATED PRESS: Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago
THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

“Very little in the way of educational activity,” Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. “At one point, they tried to show the movie ‘Christopher Robin,’ but the sound quality was so bad it couldn’t be understood. Couldn’t read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything.”

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. “We kept him home today,” she said of her son, “and probably will for the rest of the week.”

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers “heroes.”

“Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids’ side,” García said. “We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike.”

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

“As I’ve said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I’ll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this,” he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

“This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles,” said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of “looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We’ve got to change that.”

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad

in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with

the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because

the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats — outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: The Hill, Daily Mail

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and

librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At a school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: KIX 1070

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and

infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." <https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: Telemundo

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinitiate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weinarten, president

of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st

Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,'" said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measure passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take

my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena if it's for emails, for witnesses, or if someone is a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group

As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone

By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest

services.”

The warrant also seeks “all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors” and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others “assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes.”

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, “the scandal is what’s legal.”

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used “straw donors” to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The “Committee for a Safer Los Angeles” was an entity called an “independent expenditure committee.” Garcetti’s adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was “barely aware” of it and had “nothing” to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of “behested payments,” unlimited contributions that are made at the “behest” of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has “behested” over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the “Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles,” and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the “Los Angeles Parks Foundation” at Garcetti’s request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price “behested” over \$245,000 for the “Coalition for Responsible Community Development,” which has a stated mission to “improve local planning.”

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he’d have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that’s about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for

three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three

of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a

large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch #WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothevotes.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>

Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 3:43 AM

To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>

MAYOR PRESS CLIPS

<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees

LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties

Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law

Some data for Garcetti before selecting next LAPD chief

Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly

Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly

Normalizing The Chaos In California

Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President

Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices

Daily News

LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council appears set to pass a resolution today that would keep the city pursuing host city duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when some potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council, but those issues appear to have been negated after some sports companies in Los Angeles, including Anschutz Entertainment Group and the Los Angeles Football Club, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract.

The LLC will "absorb all of the potential risks" in hosting, Branamir Kwartuc, a spokesman for Councilman Joe Buscaino, told City News Service last week.

Among the problems with the potential host contract was that Los Angeles would be the official host city but the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city — the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising.

"We can't do police support in Inglewood or Pasadena," Kwartuc said.

FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, with the city of L.A. to sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, Kwartuc said.

"Not only could the city be liable for partial performance, or nonperformance, the city could also incur liability for damages resulting from the performance of other governmental entities or private parties," the city staff report said.

As a result of the contract problems, Council President Herb Wesson never scheduled a vote for the host city agreement, according to Kwartuc, but Mayor Eric Garcetti intervened and asked the United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid, to extend a deadline so the contract issues could be worked out.

A spokeswoman for Wesson did not respond to a request to comment, but Wesson was one of the eight council members who signed the new resolution, which is scheduled to be voted on by the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee, immediately followed by a vote by the full City Council.

In the last two weeks since the extension was granted, the LLC has been formed, and the cities of Inglewood and Pasadena have also provided letters of support to serve as potential venue hosts, Kwartuc said. The resolution under consideration by the City Council says the city will work "in good faith" with the host committee to negotiate a contract specifying the types and level of city services to be provided by the city for 2026 World Cup events.

If the North American bid is successful, the United States would stage 60 matches, and Mexico and Canada 10 apiece, and at least 12 cities will be selected as venues for games. The LATCB said in a report that any one host city could generate \$400 million to \$600 million in total economic impact as a result of serving as a World Cup host.

NBC Los Angeles

LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution Tuesday that keeps the city pursuing host duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council. But those issues appeared to be resolved when local sports companies, including the Anschutz Entertainment Group, the Los Angeles Football Club and the Los Angeles Rams, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract. Among the concerns that had arisen before the LLC was created was that while Los Angeles would be the official host city, the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city -- the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising. The formation of the LLC allows the city "to ease some of the risks that we'll take on if a game or match is not held in the city of L.A.," Councilman Joe Buscaino said before the vote.

Approval of the resolution, and a second agreement between Los Angeles World Airports and the United States Soccer Federation over airport obligations for any FIFA events, was far from routine, with several council members voicing concerns during a debate that went on for nearly two hours.

The two biggest concerns expressed were that the LLC only officially formed Tuesday and the council had not seen the actual LLC documents, and that the LAWA agreement gives FIFA the power to make unilateral changes.

The resolution was approved on a 14-1 vote, while the LAWA agreement was passed with an 11-4 vote. Councilman Mitch O'Farrell cast the lone vote against the resolution. The council also voted 11-4 against an amendment to the LAWA agreement introduced by O'Farrell that would have asked the Board of Airport Commissioners to renegotiate with U.S. Soccer and remove the clause that gave FIFA, as a third party in the contract, unilateral power to change it down the road. Council members Mike Bonin, David Ryu and Bob Blumenfeld voted with O'Farrell on the LAWA votes.

The United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid for the World Cup, had already granted two extensions to Los Angeles to work out its issues with the host agreements, and the second deadline expires Wednesday, which put the council under the gun to approve the documents.

"There's just not enough information and security in knowing that we're prepared to make the best decision at this moment with tomorrow's looming deadline for these votes we're about to take, so I just wanted to raise that concern," O'Farrell said. "I wish we had a better process legislatively quite frankly. I'm just not comfortable with this."

The council ultimately sided with the arguments of Councilman Paul Krekorian, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who laid out a detailed analysis of why he believed the risks in the agreements were minimal compared to the potential rewards. He cited statistics from the Los Angeles Trade and Convention Bureau, which estimated the event could have a \$400 million to \$600 million total economic impact in the area if Los Angeles serves as a World Cup host. Krekorian also pointed out that the LLC would relieve the city from any serious liability related to the bid.

"As we've talked it through I've gone from thinking, 'Oh we really don't have enough before us, I'm really a little apprehensive' -- and you guys know I'm not one that's really afraid to ask questions about things, you know I'm usually the fly in the ointment on these things, but as we talked it through I'm just not seeing that it's that big of a risk," he said. FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, while the city would sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, officials said.

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Fox Business

Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law

By Steve Peoples

Republicans spent much of the last decade firing up their base with a vow to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. But when it came to doing the deed, they found promises much easier than execution.

Democrats may be starting down the same path on taxes.

From New Mexico to New York, high-profile liberals are calling for the repeal of the Republican tax plan that President Donald Trump signed into law just two months ago. They're betting big that the message will resonate with voters in the midterm elections in November and provide the sort of clear, populist economic message some Democrats worry has been missing. But others, including red-state Democrats, are clearly queasy about the strategy, mindful that repealing a government benefit once it takes hold is far easier said than done — and not always popular.

When pressed, some leading Democrats conceded that they'd repeal only certain portions of the tax law despite the implication that they'd go further.

Read about Spectre and Meltdown—two new major security flaws affecting billions of computers, laptops, cell phones, servers, and cloud operating systems made in the last two decades.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a 2016 presidential candidate who appeared last weekend in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan as part of the "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, said "No" three times in an AP interview when asked whether he backed full repeal.

"I think what we have got to do is sit down and take a look at what kind of tax benefits would work best for small business, for working families and the middle class," Sanders said. "But what we must repeal completely is tax breaks that go to billionaires and to profitable large corporations that are in some cases are paying very little in taxes right now."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who may seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 and was also featured on the repeal tour, offered a more aggressive position.

"Repeal this tax bill," Garcetti said. "It was passed by, and for, the Washington crowd and their rich friends. Corporations and billionaires are doing just fine."

The messaging challenge comes as the Republican tax overhaul emerges as a central issue in this year's midterm elections. More than health care, guns, or immigration, Republicans and Democrats both have embraced the tax debate. Each side believes it has the winning argument in a battle that will decide the balance of power in Washington for the last two years of Trump's first term.

The conservative Koch brothers' political network has already begun spending millions of dollars on TV ads and grassroots events to help improve the plan's popularity.

While Trump and many conservative leaders cheered the tax overhaul, it was among the least popular pieces of legislation in modern history when it became law in December. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for the tax plan, which overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy, but included modest savings for many middle-class and lower-income Americans.

"I would urge Democrats to embrace repeal. It is a simple clean message. It also captures essentially what most Democrats feel about this bill: It's bad," said Nicole Gill, whose liberal group, Tax March, coordinated the ongoing "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, which in addition to Sanders and Garcetti has already featured appearances from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic National Committee Deputy Chairman Keith Ellison and at least 16 other members of Congress in recent weeks. The tour runs through mid-April.

Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who leads Senate Democrats' 2018 campaign efforts, encouraged all of his party's candidates, even the most vulnerable, to embrace their opposition to the tax law.

"Our members will be talking to these issues," Van Hollen said. "It doesn't matter if you're a red state or a blue state, the idea of running up the debt by \$1.5 trillion and cutting Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for big corporations and the wealthy is not popular."

So far, at least, red-state Democrats are quick to say they would not repeal the law if given the chance, in what is a far more cautious approach than some party strategists and blue-state officials would like.

"I think there's a lot of good things in the tax bill. I just think they went a little too far on some things," said West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who is running for re-election this fall in a state Trump won by 42 points.

Manchin, for example, said he wanted the corporate tax rate placed at 25 percent and he would not have voted to repeal the health coverage mandate.

"No, I wouldn't vote to repeal it. I'm not that type of a person," he said in an interview, adding that he had a similar philosophy on Obama's health care overhaul: Fix it, rather than repeal.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, a state Trump won by 20 points, said he understands that some constituents will benefit from the tax law. He said headlines about bonuses are "all positive" as far as he's concerned.

"There's portions of the tax bill that actually made sense," he said in an interview. "But the thing is, who pays for it? And it's our kids."

During the bill signing in December, Trump highlighted the corporate tax cut in particular, which was dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent. Companies such as Apple, Walmart, Cisco and Pepsi will save hundreds of millions of dollars and sent some of the savings to workers in the form of bonuses and pay increases, but much more went to corporate executives and other shareholders. The bill also lowered the tax rates for each income level and doubled the standard deduction.

Most Americans, but not all, will save money on their tax bills in the coming years, with wealthier taxpayers saving the most. The individual tax cuts will expire in 2025, while the business cuts are permanent.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat elected three months ago, suggested that it didn't matter much whether Democrats promised outright repeal or major improvements as they campaign against the Republican tax law this fall.

"Whether you take an approach of repealing or taking a piece of legislation that you can improve upon — it's the same thing (with) the Affordable Care Act — nothing's perfect," Northam said.

LA Observed

Some data for Garcetti before selecting next LAPD chief

By Fernando Guerra

Los Angeles' political history is more intricately entwined with that of its police department than any other American city, which will make Mayor Eric Garcetti's decision on who replaces retiring LAPD Chief Charlie Beck's one of his most consequential.

As social scientists committed to non-partisan analysis of life as it's currently lived in our city, we at Loyola Marymount's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles hope the mayor and his appointed police commissioners will work toward a decision informed not only by the usual City Hall interests, but also by the wealth of empirical data available concerning residents' views on LAPD and its policies.

There is no need to rehash here the long and, generally, unhappy interplay of LA's enmeshed histories of politics and

policing. They long were marked on the one hand by civic corruption and cowardice and on the other by the department's political manipulations, indifference to constitutional rights and an abusive relationship with minority Angelenos, particularly African Americans, that sparked two of the most deadly and destructive urban riots in U.S. history. Suffice to say that, over recent decades, the two forces that have altered Los Angeles most fundamentally for the better have been demographic change toward vibrant diversity and real police reform.

Since the city's acceptance of a 2002 federal consent decree requiring a radical departmental overhaul, the LAPD has been led by William Bratton and Beck, a pair of genuine "reform chiefs" committed to constitutional policing. Both also are believers in community policing based on the late James Q. Wilson's "broken windows" theory, which advocates using officers proactively to curtail street-level disorder and incivility as presumed precursors of more serious offenses. As a result nearly all serious crimes have fallen to rates unseen since the Great Depression, and LAPD's relations with the communities it serves are better than they've been in historic memory.

Selecting a new chief who will build on that progress will challenge Garcetti and his appointed police commissioners to take the measure not only of the candidates, but also of the collective civic sentiments about the quality and effectiveness of today's LAPD. Based on public opinion research conducted by the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, there's a great deal to be said about the latter, some of which many may find surprising.

Slightly more than seven out of every 10 Angelenos feel LAPD currently is doing an "excellent" or "good" job. An overwhelming 85% of the city's residents rate their police services as fair or better, and 42% describe them as "good."

Similarly, 82% approve of the department's "conduct and professionalism."

Despite those historically low crime rates, however, half of residents characterize the city's "crime and safety" situation as only "fair," while only 17% describe it as "good." African Americans and Latinos are most likely to perceive crime and safety as "poor"—by 41% and 47% margins, respectively—while Asians and whites are most inclined to see the situation as "good"—24% and 23%, respectively. Women are most likely to see the crime and safety situation as "poor"—43%—though fully 47% rate it as "fair." By a 14% margin, men are most inclined to view the situation as "good."

Paradoxically, 78% of residents say they would recommend their neighborhood as safe to "someone interested in moving in." Fully seven out of 10 say they would recommend the city as a whole as "safe" to somebody contemplating moving here.

When it comes to public perceptions of the two reform chiefs, Bratton's performance was approved by 74% of residents, while Beck's performance was perceived favorably by 59%. Asians were the most likely residents to approve of Bratton's performance—96%—while blacks were most inclined to disapprove at 41% who either "somewhat" or "strongly" took a negative view of his performance. Bratton's approval rating was equally high among women and men with more than seven out of 10 residents of both genders approving the way he conducted himself. Beck's performance as chief is strongly approved by both whites—65%—and Latinos—58%. However, more than six out of 10 African American residents either "somewhat" or "strongly" disapprove of the way he's done his job.

Negative perceptions in the black community may mirror recent criticism of Beck's handling of police shootings by Black Lives Matter, a group that another of our surveys found is supported by fully 68% of the city's residents. Similarly, some of Bratton's higher rating may be attributable to his skills as a communicator, which are the best of any big city chief in recent memory; Beck, by contrast, is a more understated "cop's cop," who "bleeds blue" and has deep familial roots in the department.

Garcetti will be approaching his decision on Beck's replacement from a relatively strong political position of his own, since 56% of L.A.'s residents assign his performance on crime and public safety an A or B grade, and his rating in this area has climbed by 12 percentage points over the past two years.

The mayor and his commissioners will have to weigh the obvious questions: Would an outsider or LAPD veteran be best positioned to build on the reformers' progress? While our surveys do not find any strong sentiment for a chief of any particular ethnicity, they do suggest that someone with strong communication skills and a willingness to build greater trust among African Americans would be a good candidate. From an historic standpoint, there never has been a Latino chief nor a woman, and first's tend to build good will and political capital.

KTTLA

Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

In 2015, 74 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.

Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department.

In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.

LA Times

Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly

By Laura Nelson

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

In 2015, 74 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.

Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department. In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020. The 6% decline in 2017 falls well short of that goal, and the city's slow progress suggests reducing fatalities by half in the next three years will be difficult.

"Every life is important and we must keep pushing to do better," Garcetti said Tuesday in a statement to The Times, saying he was proud the city had reduced deaths overall in 2017. "Safety is our top priority, and we will continue to set bold goals."

The 2017 statistics were included in a report scheduled to be discussed Wednesday at a City Council transportation committee hearing.

The L.A. data are on par with national trends, which show that more pedestrians are dying, and drivers are more distracted, Transportation Department spokesman Oliver Hou said in an email.

Figures on traffic deaths across the country are not yet available for 2017, but in the previous year, pedestrian deaths rose 9% nationally and 42% in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles officials spent more than a year studying collision data to pinpoint the city's most dangerous streets for pedestrians and cyclists, and worked in 2017 to make changes along 40 of those corridors. Many are broad thoroughfares, including North Broadway in Chinatown, 3rd Street in Koreatown and Sepulveda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley.

Officials have focused on those areas because pedestrians and cyclists represent an outsize number of the city's traffic fatalities. From 2012 to 2016, people on foot were involved in 8% of the traffic collisions in L.A. but represented 44% of the deaths, the Transportation Department said.

Last year, the city made 1,120 changes to streets and intersections, Hou said. Hundreds of crosswalks were modified, including four that now allow pedestrians to cross all directions at once, and 144 digital signs were installed that tell drivers their speeds.

Speed is often the determining factor in whether someone survives a car crash. When struck by a car moving at 20 mph, a pedestrian has a 90% chance of survival, but when hit by a vehicle going 40 mph, the chance of survival falls to 20%, according to a federal study of crash data.

The city also changed the timing on 67 traffic lights to give pedestrians the walk signal several seconds before drivers receive a green light. That change — known as a "leading pedestrian interval" — is designed to cut down on drivers hitting pedestrians in crosswalks.

The increase in pedestrian deaths isn't surprising for anyone who walks in Los Angeles and has had a near miss with a speeding driver, said Emilia Crotty, executive director of Los Angeles Walks, a pedestrian advocacy organization.

Projects that have been shown to reduce pedestrian injuries, including so-called "scramble crosswalks" that allow people to cross in all directions, should not be delayed by concerns about commute times from local officials, Crotty said.

The most high-profile street safety project in 2017, along a handful of streets on L.A.'s Westside, sparked a wave of protests from residents and commuters, two lawsuits and an effort to recall Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents the area. Eventually, the city reversed most of the improvements.

The advocates who fought the Playa del Rey project said they were interested in helping other local groups fight street changes that would affect commute times in other parts of the city. Street safety advocates worried that the backlash could set the Vision Zero effort back by several years.

The city "learned some very hard lessons" last year, Crotty said. "We need our City Council members to champion this issue like the life-and-death situation that it is. Whatever negative pushback there is — perhaps from some drivers — this is what we need to protect the most vulnerable people in our neighborhoods."

Washington Times

Normalizing The Chaos In California

By Tammy Bruce

Liberal policy failure is all around us and destroys lives every day. In California, the destruction of society and individual lives has become so overwhelming, the state's liberal overseers now spend their time covering up where they can and normalizing the chaos as much as possible.

Since 2013, when now-liberal icon Eric Garcetti was elected mayor of Los Angeles, and the nation had just re-elected Barack Obama as president, Los Angeles' homeless population skyrocketed 46 percent. During the Obama years, where unchallenged liberalism was pushed and accepted (wrongly) as the new normal, we saw the leftist economic menace rage through the entire nation, destroying businesses and the full-time jobs that went with them.

In California, the destruction is particularly acute. As the social structure in major cities continues to break down, the state focuses on banning plastic straws, whether to release from prison a mass murderer from the Manson family, while cheering at becoming a sanctuary state.

Just this week, the Los Angeles Times issued an editorial titled, "Los Angeles homeless crisis is a national disgrace."

Actually, it's not — it's a California disgrace. The editorial exemplifies the refusal of liberals to not just admit their responsibility to social destruction, but an inability to even relate to reality.

The Times editorial board chided, in part, "Today, a greater and greater proportion of people living on the streets are there because of bad luck or a series of mistakes, or because the economy forgot them — they lost a job or were evicted or fled an abusive marriage just as the housing market was growing increasingly unforgiving."

They refer to the "economy" as though it's a mean thing with a life of its own, and simply "forgot" people. There's no need

to consider the actual people in charge of policy and the economy. That lost job, or domestic strife, a mean housing market are all pointed at, as though they were all dropped on earth by Martians.

LA Times

Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President

To the editor: Thanks to the Los Angeles Times for addressing the city's homelessness problem and calling it what it really is: a national disgrace. ("Los Angeles' homelessness crisis is a national disgrace," editorial, Feb. 25)

Not a single person in the city, the county or the entire Los Angeles region would disagree with your assessment.

And while we all sit back and watch the crises continue to grow, Mayor Eric Garcetti, apparently campaigning for higher office, is out making speeches in South Carolina, spending less time than he should trying to end the catastrophe in his own backyard.

Just shameful.

Mario Rochin, Studio City

To the editor: Though the brilliantly written clarion call that was this Sunday's full-page editorial about the staggering homelessness crisis in this city and county was years late in coming, it was heartening to see it there blazing with urgency.

This is not the job of just politicians and social workers to face and overcome; it is the responsibility of every single citizen to get involved in whatever meaningful way we can. Any society that allows so many of our fellow humans to suffer so badly is morally bankrupt and cruel.

Let's each of us become part of the solution.

Walter Dominguez, Los Angeles

To the editor: I am guilty of looking the other way, of rolling up my windows from downtown Los Angeles to Beverly Hills and West L.A. I have become irritated, disgusted and angry.

Sunday's editorial should make those of us that have looked the other way feel a sense of guilt.

We have elected people to office to take care of these issues, and they have failed us. We have failed for not doing our part.

We need leadership to give us all direction of what each of us can do.

Thank you, Times Editorial Board.

Daniel S. Mitrovich, Culver City

To the editor: I wonder how many of your print readers glanced, horrified at the headline and the grim pictures of your editorial, and simply closed the Main News section and picked up the Calendar or Arts and Books section while putting such grim realism immediately to one side.

I was one of those readers, but I finally forced myself to go back and read your excellent and heart-wrenching editorial.

Good God, what does it take to give a helping hand, rather than a buck here and there, or to force our "thoughts and prayers" politicians to do something, anything, worthwhile?

Charles Ruebsamen, Rancho Cucamonga

Daily Breeze

Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices

By Elizabeth Chou

Veteran city official Rich Llewellyn will serve in Los Angeles' top post, advising the council and the mayor on their options for tackling major challenges that lay ahead, including the city's growing homeless crisis and infrastructure needs.

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday voted 15-0 to confirm the mayor's appointment of Llewellyn as the City Administrative Officer. One of the key roles of the position is to work with the council and the mayor on developing a city budget each year.

The CAO also represents city leaders in labor negotiations with municipal employee unions, including those that represent police officers, firefighters and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power workers.

Llewellyn told the council that his role is to help city leaders "make hard choices," whether it has to do with public safety, homelessness or other matters.

He said he will strive to serve as an "independent" voice, and "sometimes we just have to say no," which means "you need to make even harder choices."

"And we're there to help you," he said.

The CAO's office also coordinates the city's homeless initiatives and strategies, including the construction of permanent supportive housing and mobile restroom programs.

"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real. We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."

— Rich Llewellyn, newly confirmed L.A. City Administrative Officer

Llewellyn, who has filled the CAO post on an interim basis for the past year, told council members earlier this week that several challenges lay ahead for the city, including the ability to "still deliver service, when we have all these pressing needs and not enough money to do it."

Llewellyn said department general managers are tasked with coming up with ways their staff can "to do their jobs cheaper, faster and more efficiently every day."

He said his staff are eyeing an anticipated downturn in the economy, which may affect the city's revenues and its ability to address the city's biggest challenges, such as homelessness and its "tremendous infrastructure needs."

"We're all worried about when the economy is going to slow, and whether it's going to be a dive or a lull," he said. "Most

economists seem to believe it's going to be a slowdown, not a dive, but we certainly don't want to go back there." He said other pressures on the city include the "rising gap between the rich and poor, which is ultimately driving us down in Los Angeles, and we just have to figure out a way around it."

"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real," he added. "We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."

One area the city has made some headway on is reducing liability costs, according to Llewellyn.

Llewellyn started working for the city 17 years ago in 2001, first as chief of staff for then-councilman Eric Garcetti. He then went on to manage City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's office. He also led Councilman Paul Koretz's staff, before being tapped again by Garcetti to lead the staffing of his mayoral office and his legal team. Prior to going to the city, he spent about 12 years with the county working for District Attorney Gil Garcetti — Eric Garcetti's father — and County Supervisor Edmund Edelman.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River

Preserving Frank Lloyd Wright's Place In Los Angeles Architectural History

A Censored Sculpture Of Imprisoned Native American Activist Leonard Peltier Has Taken Up Residence In LA

Economic Development

Snap wants out of Venice

Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice

Costs from Aliso Canyon gas blowout nears \$1 billion

Climate Change And Sustainability Event Comes Downtown

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils

LAUSD superintendent search moves ahead quickly-application deadline is March 14

LA Chugs Ahead With Plan To Fund Kindergarten Savings Account

Homelessness & Poverty

Homeless Hotels

For LA County's mobile mental health teams, persistence is key to leading homeless to help

Slammin Da Bones: Domino tournament gives skid row players a chance for friendly competition

Big names lending support to fight homelessness

Housing

An 88 unit apartment planned in Sun Valley amid rising home prices

Glassy 888 South Hope tower should be done this summer

Southern California home prices in January rose at their fastest pace in 44 months

Welcome news for homebuyers: Prices went down in January

Southern California home prices jump 11.4% amid tight listings

Los Angeles County houses go to escrow at fastest speed in 8 months

Public Safety

Commercial building housing garment business damaged by early morning fire

Firefighter Injured While Battling Blaze At Clothing Business In Downtown Los Angeles

Firefighter Injured In Downtown Los Angeles Commercial Building Fire

Large fire damages downtown commercial building

Raging Fire Burns Through Clothing Business In Downtown Los Angeles

Fire damages commercial building in Downtown LA, firefighter injured

Man shot to death by LAPD in Panorama City reportedly suicidal

The Central City Crime Report

How a popular Pacoima lookout spot became a neighborhood's drive through nightmare

Man posing as rideshare driver raped at least 7 women, police allege

Fake rideshare driver accused of 7 women in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles

Stolen car suspect crashes into vehicle after high speed chase in Mid City

Boyle Heights Jogger Detained, Cited During Hunt For Suspect That Drove Into Metro Tunnel

Trade, Travel & Tourism

LA's bid to be host city for 2026 World Cup takes a step forward

LAX employees concerned over distant parking, car break ins

Flames force flight headed to LAX to make emergency landing

Transportation

Los Angeles' notorious traffic problem explained in graphics

The most exciting construction project in LA right now is the Regional Connector

Video: pouring the concrete at Grand Ave Arts/ Bunker Hill Station
Goldstein Investigation: MTA Spends Thousands On Catered Meals, Talent Show
Sneak peek of the future artwork at Martin Luther King Jr station

LOS ANGELES CITY GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles City Council and members

Coco Day In LA: Actor Sings At City Hall To Usher In Feb 27 As Coco Day
Coco Day celebrated at LA City Hall

Los Angeles City Government

What To Expect From The New LAFC Stadium

LOS ANGELES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

LA County leaders look to regulate short term rentals

Los Angeles County

LA County isn't doing enough to protect people living near oil wells, study says
Living near oil wells can cause health problems, LA County believes it has solutions
LA County to expand program aimed at stopping school shootings before they start



Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 3:22 AM
To: Carolyn comcas <[REDACTED]> Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run

<http://www.tnzt.com/2017/10/30/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-run-for-president-2020-democrat/>

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/30/garcetti-possible-2020-hopeful-launches-innovation-group-244242>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation

<https://www.newsmax.com/us/eric-garcetti-nonprofit-innovation/2017/10/30/id/822896/>

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California

http://laist.com/2017/10/30/garcetti_wont_be_running_gov.php

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/30/77174/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-says-no-to-run-for-governor/>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-run-governor-50801199>

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor

<https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/alcalde-eric-garcetti-no-se-postulara-como-gobernador-de-california/>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/29/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-no-plans-to-run-for-california-governor/>

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan

<https://armenianweekly.com/2017/10/30/anca-non-stop-flights-yerevan/>

Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-agenda-retail-muertos-20171030-story.html>

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple

<https://mynewsla.com/government/2017/10/30/wedding-cake-same-sex-bakery-battle-at-us-supreme-court-la-backs-gay-couple/>

Hepatitis Outbreak In LA: A Wake Up Call

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14273-hepatitis-outbreak-in-la-a-wake-up-call>

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/361-petwatch/14276-i-m-a-pit-bull-i-m-not-a-pit-bull-la-animal-services-playing-games-with-breed-id-labels>

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16578110/la-river-bike-path-canoga-park-studio-city>

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/10/31/could-a-simpler-delta-tunnel-solve-years-of-california-water-conflict>

TMZ

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run

Eric Garcetti, the enormously popular Mayor of Los Angeles, is "seriously considering" throwing his hat in the ring for the 2020 Presidential race ... multiple sources connected to Garcetti tell TMZ.

Garcetti just announced he's not going to run for Governor of California, and our sources say that clears the deck for an even bigger race.

One Garcetti confidante told us to look at the Mayor's travel schedule, and it is interesting. Over the past 12 months he spent 112 days outside California and since May he's been out of state for 51 days.

Garcetti is a die-hard democrat who has increasingly gained stature in the party. Our sources say a Presidential run is a "frequent discussion" among his staff.

Garcetti has made a difference in L.A. like few mayors have with various initiatives ... the crown jewel was snagging the Olympics for 2028.

For his part, Garcetti tweeted over the weekend, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." At the same time, Garcetti has said when it comes to politics, "All the rules are off" ... the takeaway there is you don't have to be a U.S. Senator or Governor in order to run for President.

Politico

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

By Edward Isaac Dove

Prospective presidential candidates tend to launch PACs to pump money into campaigns of people who might prove helpful. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is starting a nonprofit with other mayors, union leaders and business executives to fund what they call innovation investments around the country.

Called Accelerator for America, the group will hold its first meeting Nov. 7 and 8 in South Bend, Indiana, timed to coincide with the anniversary of last year's election. The second meeting is already booked for February, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Garcetti announced on Sunday that, as expected, he wouldn't run for governor of California in 2018, writing on Twitter, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." But skipping a statewide run now clears him to continue his exploration of national politics — reelected earlier this year, his second term will now last five and a half years due to a change in the election schedule, through 2022.

The mission of Accelerator for America is to provide strategic and educational support in cities, counties and states where there are ballot initiatives for infrastructure funding. Leaders of the group will also look to invest directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training that they believe can be scaled out around the country.

They begin with \$1 million in funding, half of which comes from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More money is expected.

Garcetti, who'll be chairing the council, said the inspiration for it came from the success of last year's Proposition M in Los Angeles, which authorized \$120 billion for infrastructure investment over the next decade. Its passage contrasted with the failure of the Trump administration to provide any details — let alone launch a legislative push — for its promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan.

"America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C.," Garcetti said. "We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action."

On the stump, Garcetti has used a line about wanting "a Democratic voice in local politics, a local voice in Democratic politics," and he says, "I realized the same thing could be said in a nonpartisan way—a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."

Garcetti said he plans to open November's meeting by listing three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."

When it's pointed out to him that this sounds like presidential rhetoric —especially in the context of a politician who this year has given a speech in the swing state of Wisconsin, spent a day campaigning in New Hampshire and made frequent appearances at national Democratic events—he said, "I hope it's not my platform—I hope it's a platform for local leaders."

Garcetti, whose jobs group will happen to take him to Indiana and South Carolina, added, "I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started."

Longtime Garcetti aide Rick Jacobs will serve as CEO of the group, which is in the process of being incorporated as a 501(c)3.

Each member of the advisory council is being asked to make three suggestions for initiatives to back, and they'll look to take applications as the group develops.

"The more we can do to link up the capital and expertise that's on the coasts with the needs in the middle of the country, the better," said South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who helped develop the concept for Accelerator for America with Garcetti following conversations at meetings of the U.S. Conference of Mayors over the summer.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters general president Doug McCarron pointed out that Proposition M is expected to create 465,000 jobs over 40 years.

"We take that show on the road and we show different cities and counties what can be achieved locally," McCarron said. "There's got to be an uprising of spirit at the local level. It's really easy to point fingers at Washington."

The other advisory council members are: Nashville, Tennessee Mayor Megan Barry; Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin; Dayton, Ohio Mayor Nan Whaley; Washington State Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib; International Union of Operating Engineers general president James Callahan; Echoing Green president Chad Doresey; Dollar Shave Club

founder & CEO Michael Dubin; PolicyLink CEO Angela Glover Blackwell; Incite.org CEO Swati Mylavarapu; Social Capital Founder and CEO Chamath Palihapitiya; and HNTB president and CEO Rob Slimp. All the elected officials involved so far are Democrats, though the group does expect to add Republicans to its advisory council.

Newsmax

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation

By Joe Crowe

Eric Garcetti, the Democratic mayor of Los Angeles is working with other mayors, union leaders, and business executives to launch Accelerator for America, a nonprofit for funding innovation around the U.S., according to Politico.

Accelerator for America's mission is to support strategic and educational support in areas where there are initiatives for infrastructure funding on the ballots. Leaders will put investments directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training, Politico's report said.

Garcetti, who will be chairman of the group, said the group's inspiration came from Proposition M in Los Angeles that authorized \$120 billion in investment in infrastructure over the next decade. Proposition M's passage contrasted with President Donald Trump's administration's failure to launch its promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, Politico reported. "America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C. We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action," Garcetti said, according to Politico.

Garcetti said he wants "a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."

The group begins with funding of \$1 million — half of that provided by United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More funding is expected, Politico's report said.

The group's first meeting will be Nov. 7 and 8, coinciding with the anniversary of the 2016 presidential election. Garcetti said he would open the meeting with three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."

"I hope it's not my platform — I hope it's a platform for local leaders... I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started," Garcetti said when it was noted that the comment sounds like a presidential candidate's rhetoric, according to Politico.

All the officials in the group so far are Democrats, but the group expects to add Republicans to its advisers, Politico reported.

LAist

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California

By Annie Lloyd

Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not be running for governor of California, ending speculation he would try to replace Governor Jerry Brown in the 2018 election.

If he were to enter race, he would be campaigning against former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Instead, he will remain in Los Angeles to "best build on our progress here in L.A.."

Garcetti won his second term as mayor by a landslide back in March. He was sworn in in July, so he's only a few months in to his second term, which will last five and a half years due to a one-time change in the election year.

His decision not to run for governor doesn't mean he won't look for a presidential run in 2020. While he and his camp have kept mum on the matter, we've noted that he's visited multipleswing states and had a meet-and-greet with billionaire donor Ronald Perelman. He also spoke to a TV reporter in Wisconsin back in June, saying, "I think all the rules are off," according to the L.A. Times. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is," he said. We'll fill in the next sentence: no Los Angeles Mayor could be president until Garcetti is.

KPCC

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.

Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.

The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.

Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.

Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year. The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

ABC News

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La Opinion

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor

Eric Garcetti, mayor of the city of Los Angeles, announced on Sunday that he will not run to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018.

"We still have a lot to do to build a stronger city, state and nation," said Garcetti, through a tweet. "I know I can grow the success we've had here in Los Angeles," he added.

Speculation about the political aspirations of the mayor of Los Angeles increased in recent months, during which Garcetti traveled to several states of the country and refused to deny the rumors.

However, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles, recently announced his candidacy, and this may have affected his decision. As the Los Angeles Times points out, the abovementioned, as well as Treasurer John Chiang, share taxpayers. Even the Villaraigosa campaign will be backed by Latino and Angeleno voters, two sectors to which Garcetti would have also gone.

Due to a change in election dates, Garcetti will serve as mayor until 2022. According to a report in The New York Times, some Democratic contributors urge him to consider the presidency in 2020.

Daily Breeze

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?

By Brenda Gazzar

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation."

"And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.

The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.

"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."

The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.

It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position, he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.

Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.

"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."

Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.

"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side. Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.

There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not

only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.

"It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles," Guerra said.

A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.

Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.

But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.

When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."

While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.

"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.

In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.

"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Armenian Weekly

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) is continuing its engagement with key government, business, and civil society stakeholders in both Armenia and the United States to establish non-stop flights between Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) in Yerevan, Armenia with a U.S. carrier.

"Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti told the ANCA (Photo: ANCA)

Zanku Armenian, who is leading the ANCA's effort and Zareh Sinanyan, Glendale, California City Council Member recently traveled to Yerevan to discuss with officials the practical steps necessary to establish this proposed flight route. Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek was also in Yerevan on an official visit at the same time, arranged by the ANCA Pasadena chapter. Tornek and Sinanyan serve together on the Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission, as President and Vice President, respectively. The meetings in Yerevan build on discussions ANCA officials had earlier this year with LAX CEO Deborah Flint.

Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Armenian-Americans in the United States. This ambitious undertaking to establish a global direct link between Los Angeles and Yerevan comes at a time when LAX is going through a massive \$14 billion dollar makeover, turning it into a world-class airport—while the Southern California region also prepares to host the Olympic Games in 2028. LAX is already the number one destination airport in the country, with more flights originating and ending there than any other airport.

"L.A. has strong and lasting bonds with the people of Armenia," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness."

"We see an eagerness on the part of all officials to work with the ANCA to explore this creative initiative," said Armenian, "because linking the largest Armenian-American diaspora community in the United States with Armenia will boost tourism and business opportunities in both Los Angeles and Armenia."

In Yerevan, consultations began with the Chairman of the State Revenue Committee, Vardan Harutyunyan. He welcomed the positive economic impact this flight would have on both regions. In addition to pledging his support, Harutyunyan encouraged continued direct contacts with government officials in Yerevan, including helping to bring appropriate stakeholders in Armenia together to further evaluate the financial feasibility of this endeavor.

Discussions were also held with Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia. Avetisyan reiterated that establishing non-stop airline service with the U.S. has long been a goal, especially as passenger traffic to Yerevan continues to grow at a rapid pace year-over-year. Avetisyan acknowledged that all the technical pre-conditions already exist for Armenia to accept the type of large aircraft it would take to make such a long journey. This includes the Boeing 777 aircraft which currently already lands at Zvartnots Airport. Avetisyan also expressed confidence that any additional levels of security certification required by international and U.S. authorities to allow for non-stop flights between Armenia and the U.S. could easily be met, as Armenia already maintains a high degree of security at its airport in Yerevan.

Glendale City Councilman and Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission Member Zareh Sinanyan, Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia and longtime ANCA leader Zanku Armenian in Yerevan discussing steps needed to establish a non-stop LAX-EVN flight (Photo: ANCA)

The group also met with Andranik Shkhyan, Deputy General Manager at Zvartnots International Airport, who was also enthusiastic about establishing non-stop US-Armenia airline service. He advised that he was also taking active steps to promote this effort by sharing relevant information with certain U.S. carriers. Shkhyan pledged to collaborate with the ANCA to further promote this non-stop flight goal within aviation circles to attract possible new airline service.

Lastly, a meeting was held with Zarmine Zeitountsian, Chairperson of the State Committee for Tourism, which is part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia. Ms. Zeitountsian also welcomed the creation of non-stop airline service with the U.S. and offered the full support of her office in pursuing this effort, as it aligns with the Committee's mission to promote increased tourism to Armenia.

This round of direct meetings with Armenian government officials in Yerevan was an important step in laying the groundwork for future steps that will need to be taken," said Zanku Armenian of the ANCA. "The next critical steps include the need for a detailed financial feasibility study and other economic impact studies that will be used in discussions with possible investors and U.S. carriers that could serve the new route," Armenian continued. While the meetings were being held in Armenia, the ANCA also briefed members of the U.S. Congressional delegation that visited Armenia and Artsakh the following week. These and previous congressional briefings intend to secure support from various Members of Congress who can help with the appropriate U.S. federal agencies that would need to be involved in this process.

The ANCA plans to continue pursuing this bold initiative working with relevant government officials in the United States and Armenia. The ANCA's effort aims to ensure a methodical, integrated and professional approach between the government and private sectors that is necessary to attract the serious interest of U.S. carriers.

LA Times

Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex

By James Peltz

As thousands prepared to head to Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Saturday for its 18th annual celebration of the Mexican tradition known as Dia de los Muertos, they had no shortage of places to shop.

Outfits adorned with images of colorful sugar skulls, skeletons and other traditional Day of the Dead symbols are available these days far beyond the small neighborhood stores that once had a lock on such things.

Target, Wal-Mart and other big retailers have plastered the theme on masks, paper plates and candle holders. There are Day of the Dead earrings and necklaces at Party City, costumes and headbands at Spirit Halloween stores and temporary tattoos and bed covers available at Etsy.com.

Merchandise capitalizing on the tradition had been spreading rapidly in the retail world in recent years, but this year it seems to be everywhere, even stamped on the California lottery's "Dia de los Muertos Scratchers."

With BridgeClimb Sydney, guests can ascend the southern arch of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, seven days a week, night or day. The view from the bridge is breathtaking.

The Hollywood Forever Cemetery event was just one of 19 Day of the Dead festivities across greater Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced on Twitter. Day of the Dead also is the underlying concept of a new Pixar animated movie, "Coco," that's being heavily marketed ahead of its Nov. 22 release.

Some point to another movie, 2015's James Bond film "Spectre," for helping propel the Day of the Dead momentum because it includes an elaborate Dia de los Muertos parade in Mexico City.

As a result, Day of the Dead — largely celebrated Nov. 1 and 2 — effectively has become rolled up into the Halloween retail juggernaut, unsettling some observers who see it as cultural appropriation that turns the centuries-old Day of the Dead remembrances into crass commercialism.

The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent.— Charlene Villaseñor Black, UCLA professor

Nearly 180 million Americans this year are expected to spend a record \$9.1 billion on Halloween, a 32% surge from just two years ago, according to the National Retail Federation.

The trade group doesn't yet track Day of the Dead sales alone, but "we wouldn't be surprised if it becomes mainstream by next year, especially after movies like 'Coco' are released," federation spokeswoman Ana Serafin Smith said. "Movies influence what a lot of people want to dress up as on Halloween."

Day of the Dead merchandise "has been a popular style" for Party City since it began carrying the products three years ago, said Ryan Vero, president of Party City's retail division, which operates 900 U.S. outlets. "We even dedicated a section in our stores for this merchandise," he said.

Day of the Dead products are "dramatically more visible to me this year," said Charlene Villaseñor Black, a professor of Ibero American Art and Chicana/Chicano Studies at UCLA. "The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent."

The ever-growing Halloween retail phenomenon is even encroaching on Christmas turf. Some Halloween buffs are buying bright-orange fake Christmas trees from the likes of Treetopia of South San Francisco and adorning them with skulls, skeletons and candy to create Halloween trees.

The jump in Halloween spending not only is a bright spot for retailers but an offbeat economic indicator because its growth generally has tracked the economy's expansion and rising consumer confidence.

The National Retail Federation's spending survey, conducted with Prosper Insights and Analytics, showed that only 12.9% of respondents said current economic conditions would affect their Halloween spending this year. That figure was 32.1% six years ago, when the economic recovery was stumbling.

Holiday's popularity is growing

Dia de los Muertos goes back thousands of years. Much of the holiday is aimed at celebrating life along with remembering the dead.

The event traditionally consisted of family gatherings that often were held at the gravesites of the departed. Altars, or ofrendas, also were created in survivors' homes with photos and favorite objects of dead loved ones.

Day of the Dead's rising popularity in Southern California is seen as occurring in lockstep with the region's growing Latino population, a consumer segment the retail industry naturally wants to capture.

But there's been a backlash in some quarters.

A recent article on style website Bustle.com listed the Day of the Dead sugar-skull mask or face painting as one of eight

costumes that "are actually racist, even if you might not realize it" unless one was raised in Mexican culture and observes Dia de los Muertos.

The website Latina.com listed Dia de los Muertos as one of seven things "Mexicans did before it was cool" and that the holiday "has become fodder for cultural-appropriating Americans."

Pixar parent Walt Disney Co. also ran into controversy as it developed plans for "Coco." Disney tried to trademark "Dia de los Muertos" in 2013 but withdrew the application after a public uproar that accused Disney of cultural insensitivity. Certain universities also are urging students to avoid Halloween costumes in general that some might deem offensive because they reflect ethnic stereotypes or are culturally insensitive and disrespectful.

UCLA's Villaseñor Black said she too was "more conscious of the issue of appropriation" with Day of the Dead merchandise.

"I am wondering about the commercialization" of the tradition at the same time "Latinos and Mexicans are under fire, really, in the United States," she said, in part because of the heightened national dispute about immigration.

"There's a tension in my mind," she said.

It's not surprising that Day of the Dead merchandise sales would flow into the Halloween retail season because of the calendar, said Tricia Lacy, president of Beistle Co., a century-old Pennsylvania maker of decorations and party goods for retailers.

"There's no practical way to wait until Halloween" to buy Day of the Dead costumes and other goods "because they're celebrated one right after the other," she said. So retailers increasingly include Day of the Dead sections in their Halloween displays.

When Beistle started carrying Day of the Dead products more than a decade ago, it sold only four items. It now has more than 60 Dia de los Muertos products for sale, including masks and paper lanterns, "and we will have more next year," she said.

My News LA

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Attorney's office helped write a brief submitted Monday to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a same-sex couple denied service by a Colorado baker because of their sexual orientation.

The brief prepared by the city's lawyers, along with legal staff for Santa Clara County and New York City, was filed on behalf of 70 cities and counties and 80 mayors across the United States.

"Again we're taking a stand for LGBTQ equality and against discrimination that assaults citizens' dignity based on sexual orientation," Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. "A business that denied service because of a customer's race or religion would be roundly condemned. Denying service based on sexual orientation deserves the same condemnation. The court should see this case for what it is — an attempt to subvert anti-discrimination laws that ensure equal treatment for all people."

The case dates back to 2012, when a couple — David Mullins and Charlie Craig — went to Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, to order a cake for their wedding, but were denied service by owner Jack Phillips because they were a same-sex couple.

The brief, filed in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, argues that the Supreme Court should reject Phillips' claim that he can refuse to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples because making a cake is an act of expression protected under the First Amendment.

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruled that the bakery had violated Colorado law by discriminating against Mullins and Craig. The bakery sought review of the ruling by the nation's highest court, which is scheduled to hear oral arguments on Dec. 5.

"Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "The religious freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution should never be used as a cover for bigotry — and we cannot allow anyone to undermine protections that shield Americans from discrimination."

City Watch

Hepatitis Outbreak in LA: A Wake Up Call

By Julia Stein

On October 25, 2017, protestors from the Catholic Worker and the LA Community action Network entered Los Angeles City Hall carrying covered toilets protesting lack of hygiene among homeless who have an outbreak of hepatitis A. The protestors tried to deliver the toilets to Mayor Garcetti.

The Los Angeles Times reported October 26 that the City Hall Security Desk stopped the toilets saying because they were porcelain "and no glass was allowed in the City Hall." Skid Row residents wrote messages on the toilets and had previously brought the toilets to City Hall. Protestors also occupied 4th floor bathroom stalls where the City Hall council offices are located from 9:45 am-2:00 pm, protesting lack of toilets for the homeless.

Governor Brown has declared California's hepatitis A outbreak an emergency on October 13. Fourteen people have the disease in Los Angeles and 71 in Santa Cruz. In San Diego 19 have died from hepatitis, over 490 have the disease, and 351 people have been hospitalized in the deadliest outbreak of the disease in 20 years. Most of the victims in these three cities have been homeless who lacked 24-hour public restrooms and hand washing facilities. Since hepatitis A can have a 15-to-50 day incubation period, people unaware they are infected can spread the disease through food or water

contaminated by fecal matter or lack of hand washing. The LA Times said in "LA's hepatitis A outbreak" that "the existence of even a handful of cases among people who live closely together, often share food and utensils, and cannot easily track their contacts is a blueprint for a potentially massive outbreak."

In downtown Los Angeles Skid Row the city has only nine toilets for 1,800 people at night. 61,000 homeless are in the LA area with many living in tents along the Los Angeles River or under freeway underpasses have nowhere to wash their hands in the city and county. The demonstrators have asked for 164 toilets and wash stations for Skid Row to bring the area up to hygiene standards that the United Nations "sets for Syrian refugees." Ruben Martin Garcia, who lived on Skid Row for 24 years, said, "We're not asking for gold toilets with diamonds and emeralds. We're just asking for some ... toilets."

City officials had promised to put up 10 more toilets in Skid Row by mid-September but by September 17th the toilets weren't installed. The city then said by mid-October they would install a mobile "hygiene center" for Skid Row on a city-owned parking lot with toilets, washing stations, showers, and half a dozen stacked washers and dryers but didn't. Councilman Jose Huizar, whose district includes Skid Row, and Mayor Garcetti's spokesman Alex Comisar both said they are working on getting new toilet facilities for Skid Row. The City Council has a discussion on the issue for October 27, 2017, on how to bring emergency portable toilets to the homeless. Councilmen Huizar, Mike Bonin, and Marqueece Harris-Dawson have agreed on a motion that in two weeks staff should report on portable toilets. Jed Poole, supervising coordinator at the Catholic Worker said, "The number [of people] on Skid Row ... deserves human dignity and human rights. They deserve to not have to piss and shit on a sidewalk, and then have to be criminalized for it."

LA City Council Mike Bonin secured funding to have public restrooms open 24-hours a day near Venice Beach, but the City hasn't used the money yet. Bonin, who has worked for months on increasing restrooms for the homeless, asked the City Council to fund emergency portable toilets on Venice Beach and a mobile toilet-and-sink program like San Francisco's. "The current situation is neither tolerable nor humane, and it is a risk to public health," Bonin said. Hand washing or vaccinations are ways to stop the spread of the disease. LA's Department of Public Health Los Angeles has started a vaccination program in homeless shelters, community clinics, service providers, and on the streets. Though persuading the homeless to get vaccinated is difficult.

The first week 1,200 people had been vaccinated, but that leaves 50,000 more people—drug users, the homeless, medical providers, jail inmates—to vaccinate.

The hepatitis outbreak in California shows how lack of decent housing endangers public health. The first modern study of hookworm the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston showed hookworm, caused by lack of sewage treatment, is very common in Lowndes County, Alabama, which is 75% African-American and very poor. In Lowndes, the average income is \$18,046 a year, and elementary waste disposal sanitation is "often non-existent." 34% of the people in a new study tested positive for hookworm.

Scientists once thought that hookworm, a disease associated with dire poverty, was prevalent during in the 19th and the early 20th century among both blacks and whites in the South, but had died out by the 1980s. The hookworm parasite, after entering the body, can after months or years cause iron deficiency and anemia, weight loss, tiredness, and impaired mental function so that children do poorly in school and become impoverished adults. Civil rights protestors led by Martin Luther King in 1965 marched through Lowndes County from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for voting right for blacks, but voting rights have not improved the poor sanitation.

The Guardian describes how in Lowndes County children are "playing feet away from open pools of raw sewage; drinking water pumped beside cracked pipes of untreated waste" The Baylor study found that 73% of the residents in the study have been exposed to "raw sewage washing back into their homes as a result of faulty septic tanks or waste pipes becoming overwhelmed in torrential rains." Anthony Thigpen, a community activist, said his cousins who live in a trailer park with bad sewage pipes say they are disgusted by it but "there's no public help for them here and if you're earning \$700 a month there's no way you can afford your own private sanitation." 80% of Lowndes County is not covered by any municipal system. Most blacks in Lowndes County are much too poor to upgrade their septic tanks.

Catherine Flowers, founder of Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise (ACRE), a non-profit that uncovers the root causes of poverty in rural Alabama, says, "Our billionaire philanthropists like Bill Gates fund water treatment around the world, but they don't fund it here in the US because no one acknowledges that this level of poverty exists in the richest nation of the world." Scientists from Houston who did the first study want now to conduct a larger study, and estimate as many as 12 million people in the U.S. could have neglected tropical diseases in the South and the Midwest. Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, told the Guardian that the study's results were a "wake-up call to the nation."

The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) in October, 2016, also had a study that reported that bad housing causes many health problems. Metro USA New York reported that the NYAM study cited how in East Harlem, a very poor neighborhood, residents since 2011 have lost 2,000 units of affordable housing and estimates predict they will lose 6,000 more units in the next 10 years. Lacking housing they could afford, residents have increased homelessness and their health suffers: they have "high rates of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, infant mortality, drug addiction, and mental issues."

A lead author of the NYAM report Kimberly Libran said that the report's findings could apply to other communities in New York City as well as other cities. Holly Slaton is one such tenant who reports that tenants in her building experienced months of loud, hazardous construction that left many sick: "My daughter and I suffered months of respiratory infections, where our doctor told us to wear a dust mask in our own home. A woman downstairs report having her eye swollen shut as a result from a sinus infection which we also believe was caused by the dust we were forced to breathe in our own homes."

Brandon Kielbasa of Cooper Square Committee, which advocates for affordable housing, says that tenants in gentrifying neighborhoods face both unhealthy housing and intense psychological turmoil: "The physical act of converting affordable

housing to luxury brings with it an unhealthy, unsafe, and often toxic environment for tenants."

The connection between bad housing and bad health has been known for over a hundred fifty years. In the 19th century as huge populations in both Britain and the United States poured into the newly industrializing cities, communal wells provided water and few cities had facilities that removed sewage. The poor lived in cramped tenements where infectious disease spread: epidemics of cholera, small pox, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever occurred regularly. In England Dr. John Snow discovered in 1854 how a cholera epidemic was spread by polluted water. The Public Health Act in 1875 in England made local cities provide sewage disposal facilities and clean water for all. Also in many U.S. cities public health officials installed sewers and hygienic water systems and death rates fell drastically.

In Los Angeles KCET TV did a story "Addressing South L.A.'s Slum Housing and Indoor Air Pollution" where Lizzeth Henao Rosales reported that South Los Angeles, which is largely black and Latino, has 69% renters in some of the oldest housing in the city.

Vilma Marroquin lived in a building in South Los Angeles owned by a notorious slumlord William Little. The building has "a severe pest infestation, including cockroaches and bedbugs, crumbling walls, and leaking plumbing." The landlord's use of toxic pesticides caused Marroquin's two children to have severe health problems needing multiple visits to the emergency room: once her son "stopped breathing a day after her unit had been fumigated."

Marroquin became a tenant leader in Strategic Action for a Just Economy's campaign for healthy housing which advocates use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that requires "significant repairs to the crumbling infrastructure and a holistic view of the building as one unit." Marroquin filed complaints with City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department as well as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Her physician wrote letters for her two children demanding the landlord stop using toxic chemicals. Her landlord started using non-toxic pesticides and patched some holes in her apartment, but not for other apartments, so the building still has a severe pest infestation. The World Health Organization by 2017 has said that adequate housing should protect against communicable diseases; protect against injury, poisoning and chronic diseases; and reduce psychological stress to a minimum. Currently some of the major health problems in the U.S. from poor housing are water seeping into a home and poor ventilation that increase moisture leading to pests—cockroaches, rats, and mice-- and to mold—two known triggers of allergies and asthma. High lead levels from housing with very old lead pipes results in learning disabilities, neurological problems, and even death. Aging and poorly built homes also increase risk for chronic respiratory infections. Poor cooling in homes during heat waves can lead to the elderly having heat exhaustion and death from heat stroke while poor heating during winter helps facilitate diseases. Inner city neighborhoods that are food deserts lacking grocery stores with healthy fruits and vegetables lead to higher rates of obesity and its diseases than in wealthier neighborhoods with grocery stores. As the nation's housing crises worsens with less affordable housing, then corresponding health problems will also increase among the homeless and among population forced to double or triple up—seven people living in a one-bedroom apartment, for example—increasing the spread of disease. The recent epidemic of hepatitis A in San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz as well as the National School of Tropical Medical at Baylor Medical School's recent study of hookworm among the poor blacks in Lowndes County, Alabama, are indeed wake up calls to the nation.

City Watch

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!

By Phyllis Daugherty

At its Tuesday night meeting, Oct. 24, the Los Angeles Animal Services' Commission, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, approved General Manager Brenda Barnette's report requesting removal of all dog-breed ID labels from kennel cards in the interests of "transparency," because she and the City shelter staff "really don't know the breed of the dogs."

This policy was promoted by Commissioners Layne Dicker and Roger Wolfson, both attorneys. Barnette cites a study by the makers of DNA tests which found, "The presence of a breed's signature does not guarantee that the dog will look like the specific detected breed..." Thus, following this theory, many of the "Pit Bulls" that are touted as great pets may not really be Pit Bulls.

GM Barnett summarized her report, saying, "We believe that we have an ethical responsibility to be honest with the community by not providing them with false information about, and creating false expectations of, the dog they are adopting. To do that we propose eliminating breed labels on our cage cards, online profiles and anywhere that breed labels have previously been used."

If anyone doubts that this move toward "honesty" is a subterfuge to place Pit Bulls with adopters who do not want, or fear, the breed, here was just one of the GM's comments at the meeting:

"We need to get with the veterinary community and educate them on what we are doing. One of the most damning things that can happen is for a vet to say, "Oh, my God, you got a Pit Bull, when they really don't know any more than we do."

The public will be told that, rather than relying on breed identification which might not be accurate, they should focus on the specific dog. There was no acknowledgement of the lack of sophistication in choosing an appropriate pet by many shelter adopters.

Barnette explained that, rather than speculating on breed, the test of behavior of a dog is determined by putting it in an area with a family or in a play group to find out how it reacts. She added, "People often ask me, 'How is this dog with children,' and I say, 'I don't know, but bring your child over and we can do an introduction, and we'll be careful.'"

Commissioner Roger Wolfson questioned—but quickly ignored his own concerns—that the Department does not have the resources or personnel to institute such a drastic change.

For those enticed to discover the love of an "experienced" and loving pet as it cuddles up to a TV news anchor, media will no longer be identifying any LAAS by breed nor speculating on possible breed. This policy change will also stop "breed

rescue" from Los Angeles shelters, because it is discriminatory for some dogs to be singled out as purebreds.

"Instead of focusing on how to get more of these pit bulls adopted...we should be focused on reducing the number of pit bulls that need to be adopted," writes J. Thomas Beasley.

BE AWARE THAT THIS POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO LA CITY ANIMAL SERVICES AND NONE OF THE OTHER LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS

WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?

A Best Friends Animal Society webpage (Removing Breed Labels from Adoptable Pets) states, "Thanks to Maddie's Fund, Best Friends is working on a study within our own adoption centers in Los Angeles and with some of our valued partners, including Pima County, Arizona."

Barnette explained the theory derives from the research of one doctoral student at Arizona University who found that people reacted differently to breed-associated dogs in photos. However, in reviewing that research, Lisa Gunter, who spoke at the meeting, was cautious in concluding any notable increase in adoptions at the Florida shelter where this experiment was implemented and studied, stating that, the slight gains seen could also have been influenced by changes in shelter hours and adoption incentives.

Elizabeth Oreck, National Manager for Best Friends Animal Society Puppy Mill Initiatives, commented about mistakes in breed identification online, elaborating, "This obsession with breed is a thorn in my side. It is the reason that puppy mills are doing what they are doing and the reason people are getting what they think they want and not getting what they should want and what we can provide to them. So, instead of trying to meet the demands for what people want, which is generally purebreds, we should be making them want what we have already, so that we don't have to make more of these breeds. We are able to provide what already exists so that we can stop killing what already exists."

BREED ID IS REQUIRED FOR LICENSING AND INSURANCE

Insurance

Farmers' Insurance agent Michael Gonzales advises that the way the insurance industry would handle this is to just not cover any damaging acts by the dog, because all policies require that the breed and bite history of all insured dogs is provided.

Licensing

Barnette has not addressed the fact that LAAS is required to issue a license to every dog over four months which is adopted from the shelter. The State requires a breed to be listed. She did not say how this will be handled. One of the department's prime public health and safety responsibilities is to issue dog licenses for every dog in the City to verify rabies vaccination.

Barnette stated she had looked at some rabies certificates from veterinarians and they listed the breed as "mixed" and that had not stopped processing. However, she did not say whether she actually looked at the associated license to see if the Department or the pet owner had identified the breed before issuance.

The California Department of Public Health's website sets the NASPHV Rabies Certificate as a model to use, and it asks for the predominant breed. It also lists the rabies codes and regulations. The certificate calls for a description of the dog "including breed, color, age, and sex."

In addition, the CA Food and Agricultural Code, Chapter 3, Dog Tags, reads, § 30802. Application. Each application for a dog license tag shall state the age, sex, color, and breed of the dog for which the license is desired and the address of the owner.

Certain breeds are commonly not allowed under some insurance policies or rental agreements. The staff will no longer be free to share with potential adopters whether it may be one of those breeds, according to Barnette.

Commission President Larry Gross pressed Barnette for assurance that renters would not be in danger of taking home a pet that could cause them to be evicted, but she managed to sidestep this issue by referring to providing the weight of the dog.

WILL LA CITY SHELTERS INCREASE LIABILITY / RETURNS?

Historically, LA city and other shelter staff provide their "best-guess" estimate of the breed(s) of unwanted, homeless dogs. Sometimes they are wrong, but it is not a deliberate attempt to deceive the public. As they become more familiar with the dog, they often make corrections in the breed assessment, based on what they observe -- positive or negative -- and include any identifiable traits observed that are genetically programmed into certain breeds.

Some dogs exhibit aggressive or fearful behavior, bite or attempt to attack other dogs or cats while impounded, and the staff has, in the past, been able to advise the public that it may need a "special" home, supervision in certain situations, or recommend that it not be adopted where there are children or other pets. Under the proposed policy, that will not be allowed because it would indicate "negative" behavior.

Brenda Barnette personally released a dangerous dog, named Sodom, with a history of attacks.

This entire discussion by the Commissioners and Barnette did not include the safety of pet and families.

ATTORNEY'S OPINION

Jeffrey Zinder, Senior Partner at the Mission Hills law firm of Zinder, Koch & McBratney, opined,

The public relies on the apparent expertise and knowledge of its officials, including those involved with its shelters.

The fact that breed-specific descriptions appear in residential leases and insurance policies requires that information is not withheld or misrepresented. After an attack you can be assured that the insurance adjuster will require a DNA test and that result along with the general appearance of the dog may have disastrous consequences for the person who "adopted/rescued" the animal. Regardless of any PC label, once in your possession you are the owner and liable for its conduct.

This is one of the most absurd steps being proposed in an effort to empty the shelters regardless of impact on public safety.

ADOPTERS' ACCESS TO PAST HISTORY

Barnette describes one change in her Oct. 17 report which differs from the original plan:

"If an owner surrenders a dog and believes that s/he knows what breed the dog is, it will be listed in the notes along with all other information, such as behavior history, that we input. That, as all information will be shared with an interested possible adopter or rescue partner."

(That is an improvement, but does it pertain to ALL dogs impounded or just to surrenders?)

"Notes" are those comments entered by the veterinarian regarding vaccines, weight, health issues etc. They do not contain behavior history, other than whether the examining vet can "handle the dog."

"Behavior memos," which are shared internally among employees and volunteers are separate and must also be made available to potential adopters. That policy must be put into a written form provided to them before the adoption process and be a posted policy so potential adopters know to ask for them--if Barnette's intention is truly "transparency" and full disclosure.

BRENDA BARNETTE'S DISAVOWAL OF BREEDS

It is difficult to take seriously Brenda Barnette's disavowal of the ability to identify breed characteristics in dogs, considering she was an AKC representative and dog breeder (along with her daughter, Mary Alice Davis, an employee of Best Friends). She was listed showing her Poodle in Seattle in 2009 at the Gavilan Kennel Club and in May 2010 at a BaRay Event. She was hired as GM of L.A. Animal Services in June 2010--one month later--and formally began her duties in September 2010.

My 2013 article, Brenda Barnette's Daughter is a 'Responsible' Dog Breeder, Says Best Friends' L.A. Director, discusses the disclosure by Daniel Guss of a dog show roster dated May 23, 2013, in which Brenda Barnette and her daughter Mary Alice Davis are listed as "owners" in several competitions at the Southern California Portuguese Water Dog Club, under the listing for "Puppy Bitches:" 9 months and under 12 months, (8) CUTWATER IT HAD TO BE YOU, WS43376901. 05/29/2012.

Marc Peralta, Executive Director of Best Friends LA, wrote in an e-mail to Daniel Guss on Oct. 13, 2013, "Mary Alice falls into the category of responsible breeders."

COUNCILMAN PAUL KORETZ' OFFER REJECTED

Jim Bickhart, representing Councilmember Koretz, spoke at the meeting and pointed out, "I am not hearing any discussion that relates to whether this results in a higher percentage of successful adoptions -- where the animals don't come back to the shelter?"

He advised the Commission that Councilman Koretz would be willing to entertain the Commission forwarding its final decision and background information to the City Council so it could be referred to the PAW Committee for further review and a hearing held on it, with recommendations sent back, if they make a decision. He emphasized "that doesn't--in a legal sense--take away from your policy-making role--but could be included in your instruction to the Department, or not."

Commissioner Wolfson moved NOT to refer this Item to Councilman Koretz. It was seconded by Commissioner Dicker. The Commission resoundingly approved the motion.

Curbed

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

By Bianca Barragan

Studio-MLA (formerly Mia Lehrer and Associates), Gruen Associates, and Psomas were tapped last year to help create a 12-mile bike path along the Los Angeles River that would connect Canoga Park with Griffith Park. We're getting a sneak peek at what that greenway project could bring to the river's banks.

Studio-MLA designed "river-front trails, bikeways, greenways, pocket parks, habitat areas, and urban runoff treatment facilities" along the river from Vanalden Avenue to Forest Lawn/Zoo Drive to the east by "converting existing maintenance roads into a continuous greenway and designing bridge and road crossings where the trail meets streets, freeways and rail lines," says a statement from Studio MLA.

The project was highlighted in the summer of 2016, when Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the design team, as well as a wave of funding for the project from his office.

"This bikeway will give all Angelenos a new way to experience our city, build accessibility to our revitalized river, and expand green space for families to enjoy," Garcetti said last summer.

Community workshops are underway now, with a final feasibility study due out in early 2018, Mary Nemick, spokesperson for the city's engineering bureau, tells Curbed. Construction is estimated to begin in 2020.

Funding also comes from the offices of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez, and David Ryu. The city's Department of Recreation and Parks is another partner on the project.

News Deeply

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?

By Matt Weiser

CALIFORNIA'S AMBITIOUS PLAN to build two giant water tunnels under the West's largest estuary has been deemed too expensive by some of the water utilities that would have to pay for it. As a result, attention is turning back to a cheaper option: One tunnel instead of two.

On October 17, the board of directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District unanimously rejected the \$17 billion twin-tunnel project, known as WaterFix, and instead expressed support for a smaller, single-tunnel alternative. The district serves more than 1 million people in Silicon Valley.

A single tunnel was also recently endorsed by Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who represents a big share of the urban customers who would help pay for it. And the Public Policy Institute of California, a prominent think-tank, came out in support of the idea last year.

Ironically, it is an option the state's top water agencies rejected out of hand a decade ago. This occurred even though environmental groups actually supported it and encouraged the state Department of Water Resources and its water contractors to investigate a single tunnel, which could save nearly \$8 billion.

What's even more striking is that a single tunnel was first proposed not by environmental groups dabbling around the edges of the water industry. It came from an expert at another Bay Area water utility with lots of experience building big water projects.

"We told them back in 2007 that the right thing to do was build one tunnel, and see if it works," said Greg Gartrell, who was then assistant general manager at Contra Costa Water District and is now retired. "If you need two tunnels later on, do that. But if you do two tunnels right up front, you're basically stranding an asset. Half your investment is doing nothing for you."

State officials looked at a single-tunnel option in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as one of more than a dozen alternatives for their WaterFix project. The route, shown here, includes a single 3,000cfs tunnel and one intake on the Sacramento River, near Clarksburg. (Image courtesy California Department of Water Resources)

Gartrell said that is because the state's own analysis of the tunnel concept shows water yield from the project doesn't increase much, no matter how big the tunnels are. One reason is that, very often, the flow in the Sacramento River restricts how much water can be diverted into the tunnels.

For obvious reasons, the project would never be allowed to divert so much water that it would dry up the Sacramento River. This resulted in a basic ground rule stating that no water can be diverted into the tunnels until river flows reach about 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Such flows generally occur only during winter and spring. Even then, only minimal diversions are allowed until river flows ramp up much higher.

As a result, Gartrell said, river conditions allowing the dual tunnels to operate at their full 9,000cfs capacity would exist only about 7 percent of the time.

In contrast, a single tunnel sized at 3,000cfs would be able to operate at full capacity much more often. On balance, it would fall just a few hundred thousand acre-feet short of matching the total annual water diversions of the dual tunnels, Gartrell said.

The state's own analysis in 2013 showed that a single-tunnel project sized at 3,000cfs would deliver only 10 percent less water annually.

That's not a significant loss, he said, from a project expected to deliver more than 4 million acre-feet annually. And the \$8 billion saved could be spent on other water projects that would more than make up the difference.

The \$17 billion dual-tunnel project is intended to create a bypass for freshwater exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an estuary that provides freshwater for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland.

For decades, this water has been diverted using massive pumps at the southern edge of the South Delta, near the town of Tracy. The pumps kill millions of native fish and are powerful enough to reverse the Delta's natural river flows, disrupting habitat and causing water quality problems.

The tunnels would switch diversions to a location 40 miles upstream on the Sacramento River. This would prevent the reverse-flow conditions and, with modern fish screens in place, would reduce the fish kill.

Gartrell's single-tunnel idea was subsequently embraced by a number of environmental groups as a promising solution to the Delta's troubles.

In 2010, the Planning and Conservation League released a package of eight water solutions for California that included a single Delta tunnel.

Then in 2013, the Natural Resources Defense Council released its so-called portfolio-based alternative, which supported a single Delta tunnel along with numerous regional water-supply projects.

Russell van Loben Sels is a longtime Delta farmer who opposes California's WaterFix proposal, which includes building one of three intakes on farmland he owns near Courtland. Support has grown for single-tunnel option, which would require just one intake. (Randall Benton, Sacramento Bee)

If the state had chosen to pursue a single tunnel years ago, said NRDC attorney Doug Obegi, it's likely construction could have been well underway by now given its smaller size and fewer logistical and environmental complications.

"It does seem like a missed opportunity," Obegi said. "We've wasted significant time and millions of dollars studying this larger project that doesn't make sense economically or ecologically."

The question now is, what would be required now to embrace a single tunnel as a serious alternative?

The state did include a single tunnel (known as alternatives 5 and 5A) among its formal alternatives in the final environmental impact study adopted in December 2016. This alternative called for a single intake on the Sacramento River and a single tunnel with a capacity of 3,000cfs. This single tunnel would follow the same approximate route under the Delta as the dual-tunnel project.

The state estimated in 2013 this single-tunnel alternative would cost \$8.6 billion – about \$8 billion less than the dual tunnels.

Officials at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have said they are open to considering a single tunnel. The district is the largest water agency to support the more costly dual-tunnel project so far.

"We're always willing to talk about it," Roger Patterson, Met's assistant general manager, told Water Deeply in December.

"I get it: In order to get something done, you gotta do horse trading. But it also still has to work."

It is unclear if the single-tunnel alternative was investigated sufficiently by the state to become its new project choice. Obegi said it was not, and much deeper analysis will likely be required.

"How it would be operated is really the most important thing in determining whether this is something that would be OK for the environment or would be detrimental for the Delta," he said. "There's very little to nothing that has been said about how they would operate a smaller facility."

Such details may be moot, because the state Department of Water Resources is still officially wedded to the \$17 billion dual-tunnel project, said spokeswoman Erin Mellon.

"DWR is continuing to advance WaterFix as it is currently structured: A two-tunnel project with three intakes with a combined capacity of 9,000 cfs," she said.

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16578110/la-river-bike-path-canoga-park-studio-city>

Inflatable dams and a water wheel: Latest plan to revitalize the LA River

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-river-rubber-dams-20171030-htm1story.html>

Gehry says transformation of LA River into a green oasis will never happen

<https://archpaper.com/2017/10/gehry-los-angeles-river-never-happen/>

Economic Development:

\$54 Million Hollywood Development Breaks Ground

<https://www.multihousingnews.com/post/54m-hollywood-development-breaks-ground/>

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

LAUSD's homeless student population grew by 50% last year. Here's why

<http://laschoolreport.com/lausds-homeless-student-population-grew-by-50-last-year-heres-why/>

Harvard Westlake School drops sports center construction fight

<https://mynewsla.com/education/2017/10/30/harvard-westlake-school-drops-sports-center-construction-fight/>

Harvard-Westlake Shelves Controversial Parking Lot/ Sky Bridge On Hold And Acquires Nearby Golf Course

http://laist.com/2017/10/30/harvard_westlake_parking.php

Harvard-Westlake buying Studio City golf course, may halt controversial parking project

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/30/harvard-westlake-buying-studio-city-golf-course-may-halt-controversial-parking-project/>

Harvard Westlake buying 16 acres of LA river adjacent land in Studio City

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16573952/harvard-westlake-parking-la-river>

Harvard Westlake Buys Land For Parking

<http://sfvbj.com/news/2017/oct/30/land-buy-resolves-harvard-westlake-parking-controv/>

World Series fever may be affecting LA Unified students

<http://www.latimes.com/la-sp-high-school-sports-updates-world-series-fever-may-be-affecting-1509403793-htm1story.html>

LA Unified says PUC Schools should have unearthed alleged Rodriguez conflict three years ago
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-edu-la-unified-faults-puc-and-rodriguez-20171030-story.html>

Homelessness & Poverty:

They approve portable toilet system for homeless people

<https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/aprueban-sistema-de-banos-portatiles-para-personas-desamparadas/>

Housing:

Rising Rent Burden In Los Angeles

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising/rising-rent-burden-in-los-angeles>

Condo prices are skyrocketing in Downtown LA

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16572074/downtown-la-condo-cost-home-sales>

Alert! Eviction Ball Ready To Crush More Than 150 Hollywood Hills Tenants...Time Running Out

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/327-nc-politics/14284-alert-eviction-ball-ready-to-crush-more-than-150-hollywood-hills-tenants-time-running-out>

Another seven story condo project planned for Koreatown

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16579822/koreatown-condo-development-mariposa>

California's Fear Of High Rise Living Is Blocking Our View Of The Future

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14278-california-s-fear-of-high-rise-living-is-blocking-our-view-of-the-future>

Personnel & Animal Welfare:

Los Angeles Is Cougar Town: New Mountain Lion Is Spotted In Hollywood Hills

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/LA-is-Cougar-Town-New-Mountain-Lion-Spotted-in-Hollywood-Hills-454224843.html>

Public Safety:

Actor files sexual assault complaint with LAPD against ex APA agent Tyler Grasham, rep says

<http://www.latimes.com/business/hollywood/la-fi-ct-tyler-grasham-tyler-cornell-20171030-story.html>

LAPD Investigating Ex APA Agent Tyler Grasham Accused Of Sodomy

<http://variety.com/2017/biz/news/tyler-grasham-lapd-investigation-apa-agent-sexual-assault-sodomy-1202601993/>

Skateboarder Shot, Killed In Arleta

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Skateboarder-Shot-Killed-Arleta-Stanwin-Avenue-454126573.html>

Pacoima woman sentenced to 15 years to life for LAPD officer's Sun Valley traffic death

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/30/pacoima-woman-sentenced-to-15-years-to-life-for-lapd-officers-sun-valley-traffic-death/>

Woman sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for crash that killed LAPD officer

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-officer-crash-sentencing-20171030-story.html>

50 Homes Evacuated In Venice After Gas Leak, Police Say Ex Tenant Intentionally Tampered With Gas Line

http://laist.com/2017/10/30/gas_leak_venice.php

Ex tenant caused gas leak that triggered evacuation of 50 Venice homes, police say

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-venice-gas-leak-20171030-story.html>

Police investigate gas line tampering in Venice haz mat situation

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/police-investigate-gas-line-tampering-in-venice-haz-mat-situation>

50 homes evacuated in Venice due to ruptured gas line

<http://abc7.com/50-homes-evacuated-in-venice-due-to-ruptured-gas-line/2585550/>

Haz Mat, Bomb Squad Responds As Tampered Gas line Forces Evacuations

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Hazmat-Bomb-Squad-Respond-as-Tampered-Gas-Line-Forces-Evacuations-454198293.html>

Police investigate gas leak hazmat situation in Venice

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/police-investigate-gas-line-tampering-in-venice-haz-mat-situation>

Bomb Squad In Venice

<https://yovenice.com/2017/10/30/bomb-squad-in-venice/>

Evacuations of about 50 homes lifted after suspicious containers found in Venice neighborhood

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/30/about-50-homes-evacuated-after-suspicious-containers-found-in-venice-neighborhood/>

Venice residents back home after ruptured gas line prompted evacuations

<http://abc7.com/venice-gas-leak-not-believed-to-be-criminal-evacuations-lifted/2585550/>

Why I Got Arrested Outside The Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14281-why-i-got-arrested-outside-the-aliso-canyon-gas-storage-facility>

Driver Sought In South LA Hit-And-Run That Killed 76 Year Old Man: LAPD

<http://ktla.com/2017/10/30/driver-sought-in-south-la-hit-and-run-that-killed-76-year-old-man/>

Police Seek Man Who Allegedly Killed Pedestrian In South Los Angeles Hit-And-Run

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Police-Seek-Man-Who-Allegedly-Killed-Pedestrian-in-South-Los-Angeles-Hit-and-Run-454206533.html>

Hit-and-run driver kills 76 year old man in South LA, police release suspect photo

<https://mynewsla.com/crime/2017/10/30/hit-and-run-driver-kills-76-year-old-man-in-south-la-police-release-suspect-photos/>

Police looking for driver in hit-and-run that killed 76 year old man in South LA

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-hit-and-run-20171030-story.html>

Police Seek Driver In Hit-And-Run That Killed Man, 76, Crossing Street

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/30/police-seek-driver-in-hit-and-run-that-killed-man-76-crossing-street/>

It Still Hurts: Father Searches for Answers In Decades Old Unsolved Child Murder

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/Unsolved-Murder-Investigation-LAPD-Kenneth-Gridiron-454147893.html>

LA law enforcement celebrates state of the art crime lab

<http://abc7.com/la-law-enforcement-celebrate-state-of-the-art-crime-lab/2586308/>

Wilmington mourns promising Banning High graduate killed at party

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/30/wilmington-mourns-promising-banning-high-graduate-killed-at-party/>

Student-Athlete Doing All The Right Things Gunned Down Leaving Party

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/30/student-athlete-doing-all-the-right-things-gun-downed-leaving-party/>

19 Year Old Cal State Fullerton Student Fatally Shot Outside Halloween Party In Wilmington

<http://ktla.com/2017/10/30/19-year-old-cal-state-fullerton-student-fatally-shot-outside-halloween-party-in-wilmington/>

Public Works & Gang Reduction:

Some Downtown Building Owners Think New Trash Hauling Policy Stinks

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/news/some-downtown-building-owners-think-new-trash-hauling-policy-stinks/article_9ef0a8e0-bb60-11e7-b250-676c66bfa.html

Trade, Travel & Tourism:

House reps: Shore up security funding at LA, Long Beach ports

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/30/house-reps-shore-up-security-funding-at-la-long-beach-ports/>

Transportation:

Road Diet Foes (Updated ALMOST) File For Recall Against LA City Councilmember Mike Bonin

<https://la.streetsblog.org/2017/10/30/road-diet-foes-file-for-recall-against-l-a-city-councilmember-mike-bonin/>

Elon Musk Releases First Photo Of Underground LA Tunnel

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/30/musk-new-photo-tunnel/>

This Is The Tunnel Elon Musk Is Building Under Los Angeles

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-30/elon-musk-tweets-photo-of-la-area-transport-tunnel>

Elon Musk Just Revealed The First Photo Of The Tunnel He's Building Under Los Angeles

<http://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/elon-musk-tunnel/>

City of Los Angeles:

California Government Still Favors The Same Old White Men

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/white-men-still-dominate-politics-in-california-8798745>

Looks Like NIMBYs Are In Good Company: Think Frank Lloyd Wright

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14269-looks-like-nimby-s-are-in-good-company-think-frank-lloyd-wright>

Here's what the LAPD wants baseball fans to know before Game 6 of the World Series

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lapd-dodger-stadium-20171030-story.html>

County of Los Angeles:

Editorial: Los Angeles is facing a Willie Horton moment

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-blue-ribbon-public-safety-20171030-story.html>



Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 2:55 AM
To: Carolyn comcas <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti says he won't run for California governor

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-garcetti-governor-20171029-story.html>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for CA governor

<http://abc7.com/garcetti-not-running-for-governor/2581799/>

LA Mayor Garcetti Won't Run For California Gov-Opening Up 2020 Possibilities

<http://forward.com/fast-forward/386366/la-mayor-garcetti-wont-run-for-california-govopening-up-2020-possibilities/>

LA mayor announces he won't run for California governor

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/357739-la-mayor-not-run-for-california-governor>

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti: No plans to run for California governor

<http://www.pe.com/2017/10/29/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-no-plans-to-run-for-california-governor/>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

<http://www.foxla.com/news/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-says-no-to-run-for-governor>

The Surprising Story Of Republican Towns Going Green

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/republican-mayors-green-energy_us_59f3843ee4b07fdc5f1a19

LA Times

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti says he won't run for California governor

By Dakota Smith

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he won't run for governor of California.

"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in L.A.," he said on Twitter. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti's announcement is not considered a major surprise, given that the field to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018 is filled with Democratic heavyweights including Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Since he was reelected as mayor in a landslide earlier this year, there have been questions about where Garcetti would go next. The governor's race had been one option. Another was running for U.S. Senate, but that was before Dianne Feinstein announced she would seek another term.

Some have suggested Garcetti could be a presidential candidate in 2020.

The mayor has been talking to Democratic donors and national political reporters and visited New Hampshire, the first primary state. But he has not officially announced an interest in running for president.

But he has not shut down speculation either.

"I think all the rules are off," he told a Wisconsin TV interviewer during a June visit to the Midwestern swing state. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is."

On Sunday, Garcetti said on Twitter: "I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together."

ABC Los Angeles

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for CA governor

By Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has decided not to run for California governor, he confirmed on Sunday.

Garcetti, now in his second term as mayor, made the announcement on Twitter, saying he has more work he wishes to do in Los Angeles.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California. I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles," Garcetti tweeted.

"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA."

"I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go @Dodgers! -EG"

Garcetti had been mentioned as a leading potential contender for governor in 2018, but had not taken any substantial

steps toward organizing a campaign. He is seen as having ambitions for higher office and has even been subject to speculation about a White House run in 2020.

He was re-elected mayor earlier this year with 81 percent of the vote.

Other potential leading Democrats eyeing the governor's race include Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, State Treasurer John Chiang, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, former Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin and billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer.

On the Republican side, Assemblyman Travis Allen of Huntington Beach and venture capitalist John Cox are planning to run.

Forward

LA Mayor Garcetti Won't Run For California Gov-Opening Up 2020 Possibilities

By Aiden Pink

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not run for governor of California in 2018—thereby raising questions about whether the next campaign he wants to run is for president in 2020.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," Garcetti wrote on Twitter. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles. We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA. I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go Dodgers!"

Garcetti, who has served as mayor of the United States's second-largest city since 2013, has recently traveled to states that are significant for presidential contenders — New Hampshire, home of the first presidential primary, and Wisconsin, one of the most important swing states. He is also scheduled to travel to South Carolina, home of the first primary in the South.

No sitting mayor has ever been nominated for president.

Garcetti, 46, is Los Angeles' first Jewish mayor and second Mexican-American mayor. He was reelected in March with over 80% of the vote.

The Hill

LA mayor announces he won't run for California governor

By Max Greenwood

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) announced on Sunday that he will not run for California governor in 2018.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California. I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles," Garcetti wrote in a tweet.

"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA."

"I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go [Dodgers]!" he added from the official Garcetti for Mayor account.

Garcetti, who has also been rumored to be weighing a 2020 bid for the White House, has made trips in recent months to New Hampshire and Wisconsin, fueling speculation about his political future.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, another Democrat, is finishing out his final term in Sacramento. Already, several Democrats are vying for the governor's mansion, including former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Treasurer John Chiang.

Garcetti told the Sacramento Bee in August that he had not yet ruled out a gubernatorial bid. The New York Times had also reported that Democratic donors have urged him to consider a run for the presidency.

Press Enterprise

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti: No plans to run for California governor

By Brenda Gazzar

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation."

"And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.

The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.

"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."

The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.

It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position, he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.

Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.

"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."

Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.

"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side. Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.

There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.

"It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles," Guerra said.

A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.

Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.

But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.

When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."

While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.

"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.

In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.

"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Fox Los Angeles

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.

Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.

The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.

Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.

Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year.

The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Huffington Post

The Surprising Story Of Republican Towns Going Green

By Marisa Taylor

During the Great Recession, the city of Lancaster, California, had a 17 percent unemployment rate and a housing market dominated by foreclosures. Mayor R. Rex Parris (R) knew he needed to do something drastic.

After meeting with a tech innovator who wanted to build a solar thermal plant that used mirrors to focus the sun's energy, Parris realized that Lancaster could harness California's abundant sunshine to create new jobs, save people money on their utility bills, increase the value of local homes and slash the city's overall energy use.

It became his mission to make Lancaster, which is located about an hour away from Los Angeles, the alternative-energy capital of the world, he told HuffPost. While the solar plant was being built — it switched on in 2009 — Parris read everything he could about renewable energy. What he learned about climate change terrified him.

"Up until then, I believed the Republican mantra that this [climate change] is just a Chinese plot," Parris joked.

Now he talks about solar energy as a way to save costs and a means to "mitigate climate disruption on a much larger scale" (to quote a recent public statement).

Parris may be one of the early GOP adopters, but he's not the only Republican mayor who has embraced renewable

energy, often in opposition to the party's national agenda.

President Donald Trump campaigned last year on a promise to pull the U.S. out of the Paris accord on climate change — which he made official in June. Even before Trump took the oath of office, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) began rounding up his fellow mayors to pledge that their cities would still abide by the tenets of the treaty. The group, which has grown to nearly 400 mayors representing 68 million Americans, is dominated by Democrats — but six GOP mayors have also signed the pledge:

Jim Brainard, of Carmel, Indiana

Jim Cason, of Coral Gables, Florida (served as mayor until April 2017)

Richard David, of Binghamton, New York

Kevin Faulconer, of San Diego

Tomas Regalado, of Miami

Knox White, of Greenville, South Carolina

In early 2016, the Sierra Club launched its Ready For 100 campaign, calling on U.S. cities to convert to 100 percent clean energy within 20 years. So far, 150 cities have signed on, including four that are helmed by Republican mayors:

Faulconer, of San Diego

Bob Dixon, of Greensburg, Kansas

Greg Lemons, of Abita Springs, Louisiana

Dale Ross, of Georgetown, Texas

Indeed, Greensburg has already reached its goal.

The average American family would save \$260 a year on energy costs — and \$1,500 on health care costs — if the U.S. were to operate on 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, according to a 2015 Stanford University study. Financial considerations like that can get GOP leaders interested in green energy, said Jodie Van Horn, director of the Ready For 100 campaign.

"There are a number of Republican cities that are transitioning over to renewable energy because they're driven by economic concerns," she said.

Committing to renewable energy is a point of pride for Dale Ross, a die-hard Texas Republican. An accountant by profession, Ross said he's all about making the most cost-effective decisions for the 63,000 people of Georgetown, which he calls an "itty-bitty city."

In Texas' deregulated energy market, Georgetown has been able to negotiate new contracts with wind and solar power providers that have proved to be much cheaper than fossil fuel-based electricity. The city was also able to negotiate a fixed price for the next 25 years, which meant making the jump to clean energy was a no-brainer for the mayor.

"I think if people follow the money, the economics demand that you go to renewable [energy]," Ross said.

But Ross has also come to appreciate the environmental benefits of powering his town with wind and solar. He hopes his fellow Republicans can get over what he called the fear of being labeled a "progressive."

"Don't we have an obligation and duty to leave the planet in better condition than we found it? I think we do," Ross said.

"Especially since we have the technology and the ability to do that."

Parris, who is still the mayor of Lancaster, said the green energy push there has created more than 1,000 local jobs and cut energy costs by 3 to 15 percent, while unemployment has fallen to 4 percent. He worked to broker a partnership with solar provider SolarCity in 2010 that has helped residents make the switch to solar power in their own homes. And in 2014, Lancaster became the first U.S. city to require new buildings to be solar-powered.

Now, Lancaster leads the state of California in per capita solar energy production. Earlier this month, the city of 160,000 got the go-ahead from the California Energy Commission to implement its net-zero energy ordinance, which requires all homes to produce more energy than they use.

"We produce more kilowatts [of solar energy] in Lancaster than we use in 10 years," Parris said proudly. "It just makes sense. It's a better house, it's cheaper. You've just got to change your business model."

City Council:

Curtailing the freedom of assembly in Los Angeles

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/28/curtailing-the-freedom-of-assembly-in-los-angeles/>

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Is Hollywood Tax Credit Still Needed To Protect Industry Jobs?

<https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/10/30/is-a-hollywood-tax-credit-still-needed-to-protect-industry-jobs/>

Homelessness & Poverty:

Is compassion giving way to anger over homelessness in Southern California?

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/10/29/compassion-giving-way-to-anger-as-so-cal-residents-ponder-homelessness/>

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Seven story condo project could replace 1920s Koreatown apartments

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/29/16567342/koreatown-development-condos-apartments-demolition>

Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights & Equity:

Could the end of DACA hurt foreign investment in Southern California?

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/could-the-end-of-daca-hurt-foreign-investment-in-southern-california/>

Public Safety:

Parker Center, home to police dramas real and fictional, comes nearer to demolition

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-parker-center-20171029-story.html>

Tearing down TV's Dragnet LAPD headquarters: Parker Center race relations controversy

<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/10/29/tearing-down-tvs-dragnet-lapd-headquarters-parker-center-race-relations-controversy/>

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<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/29/suicide-accident-or-murder-death-plunge-from-12th-floor-near-downtown-la/>

Double stabbing during Van Nuys birthday party injures 2

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/double-stabbing-during-van-nuys-birthday-party-injures-2/>

Man in 70s Shot To Death On His Front Lawn

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/man-70s-fatally-shot-on-front-lawn/>

Police investigate a fatal shooting of a man outside his Valley Glen home

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-van-nuys-shooting-20171029-story.html>

Man fatally shot in Valley Glen, suspect flees

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/1-man-injured-police-investigate-shooting-call-in-valley-glen/>

LAPD Investigating Former APA Agent Tyler Grasham Amid Sexual Assault Allegations

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/lapd-investigating-apa-agent-tyler-grasham-sexual-assault-allegations-1052799>

1 injured in Mar Vista officer involved shooting

<http://abc7.com/1-injured-in-mar-vista-officer-involved-shooting/2581979/>

Officer Involved Shooting In Mar Vista Leaves Man Injured: LAPD

<http://ktla.com/2017/10/29/officer-involved-shooting-in-mar-vista-leaves-man-injured-lapd/>

Man Shot And Wounded By LAPD Officer In Mar Vista

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Man-Shot-by-LAPD-Officer-in-Mar-Vista-454030203.html>

Search For Hit And Run Driver After Pedestrian Struck And Killed In South LA

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Search-for-Hit-and-Run-Driver-After-Pedestrian-Struck-and-Killed-454042143.html>

A pedestrian dies in Venice crosswalk, where red tape has delayed safety upgrades

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-venice-pedestrian-death-20171027-story.html>

Crosswalk Safety Concerns in Venice After Pedestrian Killed

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/crosswalk-safety-concerns-in-venice/>

Rocks, crowbars used to break into 7 West Valley businesses

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/rocks-crowbar-used-to-break-into-7-west-valley-businesses/>

Trade, Travel & Tourism:

Tom Bradley terminal at LAX temporarily evacuated due to suspicious package

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lax-suspicious-package-20171029-story.html>

LAX's Tom Bradley Terminal briefly closed due to suspicious package

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/29/77165/suspicious-package-closes-lax-s-tom-bradley-termin/>

Evacuation ended at LAX Bradley terminal after suspicious bag cleared

<http://abc7.com/evacuation-ended-at-lax-after-suspicious-bag-cleared/2582046/>

Suspicious package at LAX: Terminal evacuated, bomb squad called in

<http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/29/suspicious-package-at-lax-terminal-evacuated-bomb-squad-called-in/>

Transportation:

Some tough choices-and pushback-along the proposed bullet train route

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-bullet-train-opposition-20171029-story.html>

City of Los Angeles:

Dodgers lose 13-12 to Astros in gripping Game 5 slugfest, fall behind 3-2 in World Series

<http://abc7.com/sports/dodgers-lose-to-astros-in-game-5-fall-behind-3-2-in-world-series/2582263/>

Astros are one win from World Series title after outslugging Dodgers 13-12 in World Series Game 5

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/dodgers/la-sp-dodgers-astros-20171029-story.html>

Astros edge Dodgers in walk off thriller, lead World Series 3-2

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/29/astros-edge-dodgers-in-walk-off-thriller-lead-world-series-3-2/>

Dodgers Faces Elimination After Heartbreaking Loss To Astros

<http://www.nbclangeles.com/news/local/Dodgers-Astros-World-Series-Game-Five.html>

Astros Blast By Dodgers 13-12 in 10th, Lead World Series 3-2

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/astros-blast-by-dodgers-13-12/>

Astros beat LA Dodgers 13-12 in extra inning Game 5 of the World Series

<http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/houston-astros-get-first-ever-world-series-victory-at-home-beat-dodgers-5-3>

Dodgers lose 13-12 to Astros in Game 5 of World Series

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/29/77164/dodgers-astros-game-5-world-series/>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 3:18 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]>, Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:**Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/angelenos-are-good-with-la-mayor-eric-garcetti-running-for-president/>**LMU survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President**<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/09/22/lmu-survey-63-of-angelenos-would-support-garcetti-for-president/>**Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/keep-attention-on-aliso-canyon-gas-leak-and-its-victims-christy-smith/>**LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people**<https://mynews1a.com/government/2017/09/22/la-gets-closer-to-more-housing-construction-for-average-income-people/>**LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/la-one-step-closer-to-more-affordable-housing-near-transit-lines/>**Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California**<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-concrete-earthquake-danger-20170922-htmlstory.html>**Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city**<http://abc7.com/garcetti-discusses-early-warning-system-sanctuary-city/2444008/>**It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA**https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/sports/wp/2017/09/22/its-already-time-to-wonder-if-the-nfl-made-a-big-mistake-putting-two-teams-in-la/?utm_term=.0d880337fb66**Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom**<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/21/california-votes-for-march-madness-over-june-gloom/>**Daily News****Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president**

By Elizabeth Chou

Mayor Eric Garcetti is looking presidential to some Angelenos.

A majority of local area residents polled earlier this summer said they are just fine with the Los Angeles mayor running for president, according to results released by Loyola Marymount University.

In a survey that received 914 responses, 62.7 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political position. The percentage was slightly higher for residents of the city of Los Angeles, with 63.5 percent of those polled supportive of the idea.

Latinos were the most strongly in support, with 72.7 percent saying they back a presidential bid by Garcetti. The idea also polled the best with the 30-44 age-group, and among those who earn less than \$40,000 annually.

Not everyone liked the thought of a run for president by Garcetti. The majority of those with a graduate degree and people with annual incomes of more than \$100,000 said they do not support him running.

Details about the poll results and methodology can be found [here](#).

The results provide further fodder for an ongoing parlor discussion by political observers around whether Garcetti is entertaining a run for president in 2020. Recent out-of-state trips by the Los Angeles mayor have fueled the speculation. He attended a Democratic Party convention in Wisconsin and participated in a fundraiser for a mayoral candidate in New Hampshire, a state that kicks off the presidential primaries.

Fernando Guerra, a Loyola Marymount political science professor who led the poll, says that at least for Angelenos, there is support for the idea of Garcetti running for president, but "naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles."

My News LA

LMU survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President

By City News Service

If Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti chooses to run for president, he need not worry about a local backlash, as a majority of county residents said in a new survey released Friday that they would support the move.

The question was asked of Los Angeles County residents as part of a survey conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"At least in his hometown, Mayor Garcetti polls strongly as a potential candidate for president," said Fernando Guerra, director of the center. "Naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles. But as of today, he'd have L.A.'s backing."

After taking a number of steps that some political observers have seen as preliminary maneuvering to running for president in 2020, Garcetti has not ruled out a presidential run when asked directly by reporters over the last few months — but he also has not ruled out a run for governor of California in 2018.

Garcetti, a Democrat, recently visited New Hampshire to support a mayoral candidate in Manchester.

The visit to the site of the nation's first presidential primary during the August trip also included cocktails in the Hamptons at the estate of billionaire Ronald Perelman, a major political donor.

The mayor also recently appeared at Democratic Party events in Wisconsin and at the Center for American Progress' Ideas Conference in Washington, D.C.

According to the survey, 63 percent of the 914 respondents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti launching a bid for the White House.

Support for a Garcetti presidential run was strongest among Latinos (73 percent), voters aged 30-44 (69 percent), and those earning less than \$40,000 a year (74 percent). Those with advanced graduate degrees or earning more than \$100,000 annually were the only groups mostly opposed.

Even among residents who self-identified as conservative, 51 said they supported a Garcetti candidacy.

Daily News

Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims

By Christy Smith

Harvey, Irma, Jose, Katia and, now, Maria. Headline-snatching hurricanes and tropical thunderstorms are rapidly becoming a dystopian staple.

With Texas recovering from the devastating effects of Harvey, Floridians reeling after Irma and Puerto Rico still underwater from Maria, Americans are justifiably consumed by the current hurricane hype. As we send our well-wishes, the whole nation gives our sympathy and unwavering support to the victims of these natural disasters.

Unfortunately — as is often the case with the volatile nature of news — as one issue receives justified attention and coverage, others fade into obscurity while still desperately requiring public attention and administrative oversight. This has quickly become Porter Ranch's reality.

As the largest natural gas disaster in U.S. history, the 2015 Porter Ranch gas leak was by no means an insignificant issue.

Porter Ranch cradles the 36,000-acre Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, essentially a subterranean warehouse capable of containing up to 80 billion cubic feet of natural gas. On the morning of Oct. 23, 2015, a ruptured casing on one of the wells led to a torrential outpouring of methane into the atmosphere.

The emissions were so massive that NASA reported the damage could be detected and viewed from space.

Approximately 8,000 families were forced to relocate at the time, with local schools shut down and business suffering from consumer flight.

While methane is not lethal to the same degree as carbon monoxide, medical research points to it having a variety of chronic health consequences. Known to cause bloody noses, nausea, and headaches to vomiting and rashes, methane is also considered highly dangerous due to its odorless composition, which prevents easy detection of a leak.

With its capability to trap radiation, trapping heat in the atmosphere, methane is also a damaging contributor to climate change and, on the scale of Porter Ranch's leak, deadly. The Environmental Defense Fund estimated that by mid-December the Porter Ranch leak's methane emissions were on par with 7 million new cars or six coal-burning factories. Over the span of a four-month ordeal, nearly 100,000 metric tons of methane were released into the atmosphere, which effectively doubled the emissions rate of the entire Los Angeles basin.

Indeed, Porter Ranch was on the lips of some of the world's leading figures in Paris last year as they debated and disagreed about the environmental impacts of climate change. L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, before the U.S. commitment to and subsequent withdrawal from the Paris agreement, lamented the crisis as a "natural disaster."

However, it seems to be far more than just that. More likely, this was also a human disaster. Since then, the Southern California Gas Co. has been buried in lawsuits surrounding corporate negligence, and has paid up to \$465 million in costs associated with relocations and cleanup.

While the corporation undoubtedly feels it is doing a sufficient amount to cover reparations for this catastrophic blunder, recent developments are worrying.

A medical study that was being conducted as a follow-up to the gas leak under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was abruptly blocked, because Dr. Nordella saw his employment as medical director of Porter Ranch Quality Care terminated. Since the leak, Nordella had been tracking different developments in more than 100 patients who had been affected by the methane leak. Nordella, as reported by the Daily News, said he is concerned these developments could disrupt the continuity of care for the patients he sees.

Recently, state regulators made a critical mistake in declaring the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility safe enough to resume natural gas injections, ignoring the concerns of doctors, local residents and former Aliso Canyon employees. With public interest in Porter Ranch waning, the corporate and regulatory negligence, environmental consequences and health crises that caused and have followed the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history could very well dwindle into obscurity. Without adamant attentiveness, the thousands of victims affected by this ordeal, people who desperately require attention, will not be heard. We need to keep Aliso Canyon closed.

My News LA

LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people

By City News Service

City officials Friday released the final guidelines for a new incentive-based program for affordable housing production in Los Angeles near transit lines that was approved by voters last November as part of Measure JJJ.

The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if requesting changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules for projects, but also directed the city to develop the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program.

The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.

"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: end the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that. The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."

The program creates a new system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within one-half mile of a major transit stop.

The program also grants higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects are allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.

"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.

"Along with other recent actions we've taken to increase affordable housing for all Angelenos, we can look forward to a more vibrant, livable and sustainable Los Angeles," he said.

Daily News

LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines

By City News Service

Final guidelines were released Friday for a new incentive-based program approved by voters in November to encourage the production of affordable housing near Los Angeles transit lines.

The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if the builder requests changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules.

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The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."

The program is designed to create a system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within a half-mile of a major transit stop.

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LA Times

Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California

By Ron Gon Lin

Seismic safety experts long have warned that brittle concrete frame buildings pose a particularly deadly risk during a major earthquake.

But a horrifying video taken during this week's magnitude 7.1 Mexico quake may do more to highlight the risk than years of reports and studies.

In it, sirens blare, utility poles sway. Then in the background, a building wobbles. Concrete starts falling out of a ground-floor column. Then the columns flex, and the upper floors come crashing down, sinking into a cloud of dust. "¡Dios mío! ¡Dios mío!" a woman is heard saying. "My God! My God!"

The crumbled Enrique Rebsamen school in Mexico City — a three-story structure where at least 25 died, including 21 students — was made of concrete, as were many other structures that fell to the ground.

While they may be stout and muscular in appearance, concrete buildings without a robust level of steel reinforcement can see their columns peel off in chunks and then explode when exposed to violent side-to-side shaking.

In Los Angeles, dozens died when concrete structures tumbled in the 1971 magnitude 6.1 Sylmar earthquake. Several who perished were on a newly built hospital campus. And when two concrete office towers collapsed in 2011 during a 6.3 temblor in Christchurch, New Zealand, the 133 people who died accounted for more than 70% of the final toll.

After the Sylmar quake, officials quickly updated building requirements to add more steel reinforcement to new concrete buildings. But there was no systematic effort by many governments around the world to address the defect in existing concrete buildings.

'IT'S SUCH A TREMENDOUS IMPACT'

Mexico quake shows what seismic experts have long warned

Concrete buildings dot the California landscape, a popular form of construction during the postwar boom years.

But cities are just now beginning to grapple with how to make these buildings safer.

In 2015, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti pushed through a landmark law mandating retrofits of concrete buildings, hoping to avoid a catastrophe when the next earthquake comes. The city estimates there are about 1,500 such structures.

The law requires that once owners are given an order to evaluate a building, they will have 25 years to retrofit it if a study determines the structure is indeed vulnerable. City officials are in the process of identifying buildings that would be subject to the law.

A couple of other cities have done the same.

Santa Monica earlier this year published a list of vulnerable buildings — concrete, steel and wood-frame apartments — and enacted a new law requiring them to be evaluated and retrofitted if found to be vulnerable. West Hollywood also has enacted retrofit laws for the same classes of buildings.

Garcetti and seismic safety experts say the catastrophic images from Mexico this week will raise awareness of the dangers.

"Any building owner who thinks they should sit back and relax for the next 20 years should view that video. And let's figure out a way to get to work now," Garcetti said in an interview. "What's more expensive? The loss of your entire property — let alone the loss of lives — or the investment in making sure that no earthquake of that size will destroy your building or kill anyone?"

The collapsed school is a case in point. California-based structural engineers who looked at a Times photo of the school's remains said the collapse was consistent with the failure of a brittle concrete building.

Structural engineer David Cocke, vice president of the Oakland-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, pointed out how a concrete column at the school can be seen broken in half — a clean break. He said there should have been more steel reinforcement in the concrete that would have allowed the column to bend when shaken, not break like a piece of chalk.

"When they break in half like that, then you've lost it all," Cocke said.

Structural engineer Kit Miyamoto, a member of the California Seismic Safety Commission, said the photo "looked like the columns popped out of the building ... there's no adequate reinforcement. It's exactly the problem of nonductile [brittle] concrete."

And the video showing the concrete building collapsing, Miyamoto said, has "such a tremendous impact. Most people think that they are helpless, it's too expensive to fix. That's a myth. This video can defeat that myth. Evidence exists, people are dying and we know exactly what to do."

"Actually being able to physically see the process — I think it's incredibly effective. It explains what a lot of the issues are," seismologist Lucy Jones said. "Concrete buildings seem sturdy ... and being able to see directly why that's not true has got to start."

To be sure, some buildings in developing nations are not as well-engineered as some buildings in California, Cocke said. But "these buildings are not that dissimilar to some of our worst buildings. We're going to have failures on some of our older, nonductile concrete buildings that can be catastrophic — when we have intense shaking."

The video, Cocke said, also shows the threat of buildings with flimsy first stories, where relatively skinny columns hold up heavier upper floors. The so-called "soft-story" flaw is found in many California apartments, where the ground floor is built to house carports, garages or storefronts; flimsy supports can snap and collapse in shaking.

Other cities are looking at the issue.

Jones is now working with the Southern California Assn. of Governments to help cities come up with seismic retrofit legislation to propose to their elected leaders. Jones said Long Beach is looking to hire a consultant to create an inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings. And Ventura has directed its city staff to work with Jones and SCAG to develop an approach for unretrofitted brick buildings and wood apartment buildings with flimsy first stories.

The brittle concrete defect gained considerable attention after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake caused the collapse of the newly constructed Olive View Medical Center.

Several other concrete structures came tumbling down in that earthquake, in which 52 people in all were killed as a result

of concrete structure failure.

Brittle concrete buildings also collapsed in the magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994, including a Bullock's department store and Kaiser Permanente medical office.

In addition to stabilizing concrete structures, efforts focused on other vulnerable buildings have shown signs of success. Los Angeles' 1981 law requiring retrofitting of 8,000 brick buildings saved lives: Although 60 people died in the Northridge quake, none of them were in brick structures. L.A. and a handful of other cities in California are now also requiring retrofits for apartment buildings with weak first stories.

Retrofitting concrete buildings is considered more costly. The fixes could cost \$1 million or more per structure. Occupants may have to move out during the renovation at an additional cost.

Yet a seismic retrofit is a bargain compared with the cost of replacing a collapsed building, Miyamoto said, which will be unusable and unable to generate rental income for owners. "There is no excuse to not do it," Miyamoto said. "It's spending 5% to 10% of the replacement cost to address the seismic strengthening."

Two concrete buildings at the San Fernando Veterans Administration Hospital crumbled in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, killing 49 people. (Bruce Cox / Los Angeles Times) The Pyne Gould Corp. building collapsed when the magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011. It was built in the 1960s, before the adoption of modern seismic standards for concrete buildings. (Hannah Johnston / Getty Images)

The experience in this week's Mexico earthquake also illustrates another fact: Just because your home or workplace survived a previous earthquake doesn't mean it will endure the next one.

A common sentiment in Los Angeles, as in Mexico City, was that buildings that survived past earthquakes were invulnerable to shaking. That's wrong.

Despite several devastating quakes — in 1933 in Long Beach, 1971 in Sylmar and 1994 in Northridge — many vulnerable buildings constructed during Southern California's rapid expansion in the 20th century simply have not had to face the intense shaking that scientists know can happen during an earthquake.

The last magnitude 7.8 quake that struck Southern California hit in 1857, long before the modern era of Los Angeles.

"I hear quite often: 'Hey, we went through the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We're OK.' Well, that's a false sense of security," Miyamoto said. "This earthquake proved it. Doing well in one earthquake doesn't mean you'll do well in the next."

At its closest point, the San Andreas fault is just 30 miles from downtown L.A. That closeness means the tallest skyscrapers in the nation's second-largest city could be quite vulnerable during a megaquake.

A U.S. Geological Survey simulation co-written by Jones and published in 2008 said it was plausible that five steel high-rise buildings throughout Southern California — whether in downtown L.A., Orange County or San Bernardino — could come tumbling down should a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strike the San Andreas.

After the Northridge earthquake, a flaw was discovered in a common type of steel building that showed how the frame can fracture in an earthquake; Los Angeles and most other cities in California have not passed laws requiring retrofits to repair this design flaw. (Garcetti on Friday said L.A. building officials are studying Santa Monica's new law passed this year requiring retrofits of steel buildings.)

"We don't really know what's going to happen to those really tall buildings. We've never put them through a really big earthquake," Jones said.

Downtown L.A.'s shortest buildings also haven't been tested with extreme shaking, Jones said. At no point in modern history has downtown Los Angeles endured the kind of intense shaking that the San Fernando Valley did during the Northridge quake.

"Your Northridge-type earthquake is about as bad as it gets for small buildings like a single-family house or a small apartment complex," Jones said. But while places like Northridge and Chatsworth have endured what is close to the worst-case shaking, places a bit farther away — like Pasadena, Hollywood and downtown L.A. — have not.

"Even Santa Monica" has not, she said, despite the intensity of damage in that coastal city during the '94 quake. "The reason there was so much damage there was because of how old the buildings are," Jones said.

Different earthquakes will test different buildings.

A sharp magnitude 7 earthquake on an urban fault that runs through the L.A. metropolitan region — such as the Newport-Inglewood, Whittier or Sierra Madre faults — will test short buildings like no other earthquake in the modern era, Jones said.

Meanwhile, a magnitude 8 on the San Andreas fault likely will spare the worst from striking single-family homes in places farther from the fault, including the L.A. Basin. But the same megaquake could result in "collapses of high-rises at relatively large distances from the fault," Jones said.

Miyamoto said L.A. is on the right track in retrofit policy, but should consider accelerating the deadline for retrofit requirement.

"We should go faster," he said. "The earthquake will not wait for us."

ABC Los Angeles

Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city

By Adrienne Alpert

The Mexico City earthquake turns attention to Los Angeles preparedness, and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is focused on both an early warning system and an emergency plan all residents should have.

While the county has a response team in Mexico, the city's firefighters are home from Houston and Florida hurricane response, "one of the largest and longest deployments in American history." They may go to Puerto Rico next.

Southern California has earthquake sensors, and other parts of the state are expanding their systems. Appearing on Eyewitness Newsmakers, Garcetti said by the end of next year, we should have a phone app sending the earthquake early warning. In the meantime, the mayor said, "You need an analog plan in a digital era." He said every family and workplace should drill where to go and what to do if communications are lost.

North Korea's renewed nuclear threat, now saying it will test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, is very worrying to the mayor, who said Pyongyang may have the capability to reach Los Angeles. He said the city is relying on the Department of Defense and federal authorities for information.

Viewers wrote in questions for this Ask the Mayor program. One asked how citizens can get involved in the 2028 Olympics. There is a volunteer section on the website www.la28.org. Since the announcement L.A. will be a host city in 11 years, 14,000 people have already signed up. The mayor was pleased the promised Olympic money for Los Angeles youth sports is coming in soon so "a 7 or 8-year-old can compete in her backyard in 2028."

Many viewer questions focused on affordable housing and homelessness. Garcetti is pushing the city council to approve his linkage fee. It would charge luxury home developers a fee that would fund affordable housing. Developers say it will drive up housing costs even more.

To viewers who say the city is too crowded already, the mayor said he's sympathetic to preserving neighborhoods, but density needs to increase in transit corridors. He said rents are high because the city hasn't built enough, and density has to go somewhere. Using new funding sources, Garcetti talked about tripling the pace of affordable housing.

See more from his interview below:

Is Los Angeles sending any rescue teams to Mexico?

Yes. We have on the ground firefighters from Los Angeles County who are one out of two counties in the country who are authorized to leave the country when we have foreign aid. Our Los Angeles city firefighters were both in Houston and in Florida. One of the largest, if not the longest, deployments ever in American history. They may go to Puerto Rico. We just see so many events happening in so many places.

What is L.A. doing about an early warning system?

Well, earthquake safety has been a strong priority of mine. First, passing the toughest ordinance to strengthen our buildings that collapsed in 1994 and in 1971. But second, we do have an early warning system now on the ground, which is more sensors here than anywhere in the country has funded. We have it in many schools. By the end of next year, we think we will have it so that it can push to people's phones using cutting-edge technology so that we can get alerts that can save us precious seconds of time to get under a table, protect our family, protect our friends. But the last thing is people need a plan, and I keep saying this. I'm a broken record. I think especially for new generation of folks who just think our equipment will help us, you need an analog plan in a digital era. Where you're going to go whether you're at work, you're at home, in neighborhood, what's the safest place to be? Practice with your children. Practice with your family. Practice at work because that is literally what will save your life.

When the plan rolls out and gets to our phones next year, that would be just for earthquakes in the Los Angeles area. Is the West Coast system still waiting for funding?

Yes, it's actually for Southern California, so not just L.A., but we have sensors throughout Southern California. Northern California hopes to build theirs and to catch up in other parts of the state. And then yes, to link it in to the western United States as well, but for now the stuff that is here in Southern California. We will get those warnings, and we want to tie it in, like they do in Japan, to things like elevators that can shut down, that can go to the next floor, let people off so you're not stuck in between floors. Some of our subways or light rail would stop so that they don't derail in the middle of something like that and lose lives. So we're going to also tie in the technology, not just the sensors.

North Korea has threatened a nuclear strike test over the ocean. Is L.A. doing anything? Can the city do anything to prepare should any missiles get launched our way?

It is very worrying. It seems like the technology is probably there for North Korea to reach the western United States, the West Coast, maybe even as far down as Los Angeles. We monitor very closely. We're in touch with the Department of Defense and our federal authorities. I've been in the Navy for 12 years working in the Pacific fleet area, so I am well aware of this threat. I hope that our diplomatic means and sanctions can be exhausted. Sometimes rhetoric can ramp things up, and it can be crazy. I'm hoping that we can ramp down the rhetoric, figure out a way to be strong, to defend our interest so to use whatever means we can to make sure it doesn't end up as a tragedy.

Do we have any kind of defensive system here in Los Angeles?

Not that the city of Los Angeles owns. The Department of Defense does have a defense system for the western United States.

Vickie Mays of Los Angeles asks, "The 2028 Olympics is a great time for a planning process that can benefit not only sports, but education, neighborhood development and civic engagement. How can the average person get involved?" We're so excited the Olympics are coming home. Just last week I was in Lima, Peru, and it's going to be the third time and only the third city to have that, and what I was blown away in the lead up is that we had 14,000 people sign up to volunteer already even though it's 11 years in the future. Our plan is to use that volunteer base to get engaged, to get involved, to do exactly what our viewer was saying, to adopt a school, help us with homelessness, clean up a neighborhood, be a coach and help maybe train a 6 or 7-year-old who could maybe train who could compete in her backyard here in the 2028 Olympics. Our first payment from the International Olympic Committee because we negotiated so well to have dollars for youth sports will start coming in the beginning of next year, so in 2018 we will start to see the fees in city's parks lessened, make it universal access to all sports for kids. I want to work with high schools and have that baton pass so that a kid could get involved in swimming at 5 years old and by the time they're 18 can have great coaching, great opportunities without having to worry about the cost.

Lorie Rust from Palmdale asks, "We don't want a sanctuary city, and we don't want our tax dollars used on illegal

immigrants. We would like the mayor to reflect the views of his constituents, not just a certain sect or political party." Everybody has a definition of what a sanctuary city is. I bet under her definition, which is a place that protects criminals and if you're an undocumented citizen bonus points. We're not that. But what we are and have been since Daryl Gates was our police chief, five different police chiefs, and I guess I'm too pro-cops to stop listening to them, is that we have a system that does not deputize essentially our cops to be immigration officials. That is the federal government's responsibility not ours. To build trust in our communities since for instance we just took down MS-13 in a huge two-year long operation, very dangerous gang, we were able to do that because we have trust in those communities where some people are documented and some aren't, that LAPD is somebody they can trust and tell them 'oh that is where the bad guy lives' or 'hey check it out over there in that apartment.' It makes us all safer when people come out of the shadows and are able to report crime and participate with LAPD.

City Council wants to declare L.A. as city of sanctuary, not as a sanctuary city. Will you support that if that vote takes place?

Yes, I've used that term and I always say that if being a city of sanctuary means that our cops do their job and the feds do theirs and we abide by the Constitution because we can't hold people longer than the Constitution allows, then yes that's what we are and proudly so. But I think that there is a misconception. A lot of people think a sanctuary city are mayors in the country saying "Please come here if you are a criminal." And that couldn't be further from the truth. We all want to get the bad criminals, and I'm worried that our federal policies are casting a wide net now. Not catching the bad sharks in the sea but are instead picking up a bunch of fish that are causing no harm.

John C. of Long Beach asks, "When and where will affordable housing be built? How many single units?"

Well it's being built already. You can go to the housing community investment department in our city to look where it is. We have a regular list. You can sign up to get on the waiting lists as well to get in the housing. It's not enough though. It's one of the reasons I am pushing our city council to pass as soon as possible. It's in its last phases so viewers can call their council members. Something called a linkage fee so whenever we see one of these large, luxury condominiums or apartment buildings come up in Downtown or Koreatown they'd have to pay a fee that we would then put aside to then build affordable housing for the rest of us, something that would subsidize literally thousands of units throughout our city. Theresa Ramirez of Los Angeles asks, "Why do you support the overbuilding of housing units in Los Angeles, and specifically in the Echo Park, Frog Town areas? Our streets, roads, and freeways cannot handle the added traffic congestion that is caused by building for more units on a lot that used to have one unit."

"I think housing needs to be built, but it does need to be built in the right place. There is no one neighborhood or one place that I say automatically give a green light. So I'm sympathetic with people who want to preserve the single-family character of neighborhoods, but the tradeoff is that we have to along those corridors where we are investing public transportation, along the Wilshire corridor, places like the Crenshaw-LAX line that we are building now. Density has to go someplace and if we build nothing like we did in the '90s, it's not that people don't come here. They make it even worse in the traffic in the neighborhoods because they cram in what looks like one home might have four families in it. We need to build good, quality, affordable housing, but I do think we should put it where there is transit and public transportation so we don't have bottlenecks in all of our neighborhoods."

Phoenicia of Los Angeles asks, "With the current increase in the homeless population in Los Angeles, what steps are being taken to house this population, as well as housing for displaced families due to the increase in rent prices?"

It's my No. 1 concern. It's where I spend the most time. I have a war room that I've convened in City Hall where I spend hours each week on this. We, thanks to the voters, have HHH dollars which are 10,000 units worth of new housing that we will build, thanks to the voters of Los Angeles. Measure H which was countywide will also give us additional dollars to help with subsidizing and things like rapid rehousing, which is a fancy way of saying if you're on the verge of homelessness and you call the county or the 511 service they have there, you can get assistance.

And now we've seen Hepatitis A starting to show up in Los Angeles.

It really exploded in San Diego, but there's a couple cases here. I've really encouraged our county officials and our fire departments working for them to declare a public health emergency before it spread widely, especially in the encampment areas of Downtown and other places. We're giving our first responders and others who live on the street access to getting vaccinations as well. It's much worse down South, we saw it also in Santa Cruz, but we want to stop it before it spreads here.

Washington Post

It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA

By Mark Maske

It took more than two decades for the NFL to return to Los Angeles. The league's explanation during much of that time was that it wanted to make certain that when it did go back, it would be done in a way that would ensure lasting success. It took all of two weekends into the first season with two L.A. franchises to make it fair to wonder whether the league's decision to permit the Chargers to join the Rams in Los Angeles was misguided.

"No one is covering what a massive mistake that the league and Chargers have made by moving this team to LA," Joe Banner, a former executive for the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns, wrote this week on Twitter.

The concerns bubbled to the surface after the Chargers drew a crowd of just 25,381 to the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., for last Sunday's loss to the Miami Dolphins in their home opener. It's one thing to play in a tiny, 27,000-seat temporary home. It's another thing to fail to fill it.

The Rams drew 56,612 to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last Sunday for their loss to the Washington Redskins. That made for a combined attendance of 81,993 for the two NFL franchises in Los Angeles last weekend. The USC-

Texas game last Saturday at the Coliseum drew 84,714.

"Did we do the wrong thing with the Chargers? It's probably way too early to say that," a high-ranking executive with one NFL team said. "Let's see how it plays out. Let's see how they both do when they get into the new stadium. But I guess it does make you start to think a little bit."

The league likewise is taking a long-term view.

"They knew going in this wasn't a one-game or one-year solution where they could turn a light on and get the support they expect to get moving toward the opening of the new [stadium]," Joe Lockhart, the NFL's executive vice president of communications and public affairs, said during a conference call with reporters this week. "We remain confident the city of Los Angeles can support two franchises and committed toward making that happen."

The \$2.6 billion stadium the Rams and Chargers will share in Inglewood, Calif., is scheduled to open in 2020. It is clear that in the meantime, the Rams and Chargers have work to do.

The owners voted in January 2016 to allow the Rams to move from St. Louis to L.A. and gave the Chargers the option to join them. Some within the sport thought that the option was granted as a consolation prize to Dean Spanos, the chairman of the Chargers, by owners who respected Spanos but preferred the Inglewood stadium proposal by Rams owner Stan Kroenke to the Carson project put forth by the Chargers and Oakland Raiders. The Chargers exercised their L.A. option in January of this year after failing to secure public funding for a new stadium in San Diego.

But was the NFL simply leaving San Diego because it could not secure a stadium solution there, rather than putting a second team in Los Angeles because it actually believed that was a good idea? It's an interesting question. Eric Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles, told "The Dan Patrick Show" this month that he would have been fine with the Chargers remaining in San Diego and the Rams being the lone L.A. franchise.

"We embrace any team that comes," Garcetti said in that radio interview. "We're certainly happy to have the Chargers in L.A. But I think we could have been happy with just one [team], too."

The Chargers have another chance this Sunday when they host the Kansas City Chiefs at StubHub. The biggest number to come out of that game won't be quarterback Philip Rivers's passing yardage or pass rusher Joey Bosa's sack total. It will be the attendance figure.

"We know going into this new market, it's going to take time to really authentically ingratiate yourself," John Spanos, the Chargers' president of football operations and a son of Dean Spanos, said in training camp this summer. "It's something that's going to take time. And that's something that we plan to do. And we also know that in an L.A. market, nothing's ever given to you."

"We don't show up expecting a red carpet, expecting anything to be given to us. We know that anything we gain, we have to earn. And so that's our approach. We have to work hard and earn the community's respect and earn their trust, and we look forward to doing that."

Daily News

Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom

By John Phillips

With supermajorities in both houses of the state Legislature, the governor's mansion and every statewide constitutional office on the ballot, there isn't much that California Democrats can't get if they want it badly enough.

In the most recent legislative session the state's ruling class voted to make California a sanctuary state, jacked up fuel and energy costs in the name of curbing global warming, and gutted the spirit of Megan's Law by allowing convicted sex offenders to get their name off the required registration list.

They even approved a measure that would designate the *Augustynolophus morrisi*, a duck-billed dinosaur that roamed California 66 million years ago, as the state's official dinosaur.

No word yet if 79-year-old Gov. Jerry Brown will resist the impulse to designate himself and sign it.

In the midst of all this, and without much fanfare, the state Legislature passed a bill that could have a serious impact on the 2020 presidential race.

Last Friday, Sacramento lawmakers voted to change the state's primary date from June to March, which would allocate California's massive number of delegates just after the nation's first contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The theory behind the move is that the nominees of both parties will likely be chosen before our traditional June primary, and this is the only way to get candidates to pay attention to our concerns.

In expressing his support for the change, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla told CNN, "By having an earlier voice for candidates of all parties, for that matter, would make the candidates pay attention to issues that Californians care about, like health care access, like environmental protection, like diversity — not just talking immigration issues but workforce issues."

The conventional spin is also that this would elevate the chances of a California Democrat winning the Democratic nomination, as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown have all been rumored to be mulling presidential bids.

Heck, even Congresswoman Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, has been spending time raising money and campaigning for fellow Democrats in New Hampshire, which, of course, is home to the first-in-the-nation primary — although to be fair she has always spent a lot of time outside of her district, she doesn't even live there.

But in their rush to get a California Democrat in the White House, I would warn Golden State lawmakers about the law of unintended consequences.

Because of smartphones, the internet and other forms of technology, the definition of what is "local" has changed

fundamentally. The regionalism that used to exist in the country is not as pronounced as it used to be. Let's not forget that Donald Trump beat U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in the 2016 Florida primary, and would have crushed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, had he stayed in the race. Also, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton easily defeated Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state of his birth, New York. In my estimation, moving up the primary in the nation's most populated state would be most beneficial to a celebrity Democratic candidate. The Democratic field will likely be large and filled with a bunch of politicians that nobody has ever heard of. If a Michael Moore, Rosie O'Donnell, Tom Hanks or Alec Baldwin jumped in the race, they would instantly start out with a much higher name identification than some random governor or member of congress. It would also create space for a bored billionaire, like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg or enviro-sugar daddy Tom Steyer to jump in and buy themselves relevance in the race. Whether it's "March Madness" or "June gloom," the fact remains, the three Democrats who will not be helped by the date change are Eric Garcetti, Kamala Harris and Jerry Brown.

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Golden Age Latin American Films Return To Downtown LA For Screening Series

http://laist.com/2017/09/22/cine_de_espanol.php

More Tickets, Longer Hours For Kusama Show At The Broad

http://www.ladowntownnews.com/arts_and_entertainment/more-tickets-longer-hours-for-kusama-show-at-the-broad/article_0b091a48-9fba-11e7-8134-3f5937da2e74.html

Economic Development:

LA's Popular Silverlake Ramen Confirms Big New Franchising Plans

<https://la.eater.com/2017/9/22/16350572/silver-lake-ramen-santa-monica-franchise-plans>

Grand Avenue Project: Take a new look at Frank Gehry's Bunker Hill towers

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Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice:

We'll all pay price for California's tunnel vision on water policy

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/we'll-all-pay-price-for-californias-tunnel-vision-on-water-policy-susan-shelley/>

LA's palm trees are dying and it's changing the city's famous skyline

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Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

LAUSD to name new school board president in wake of criminal charges against Ref Rodriguez

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LA school board needs new president after old one charged with crimes

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Monica Garcia is likely pick for next school board president

<http://laschoolreport.com/exclusive-monica-garcia-is-likely-pick-for-next-school-board-president/>

These ten LA high schools are the best at getting their graduates to college

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Little known Westwood policies impact student life

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Opinion: LAUSD has to face health, pension costs now

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Homelessness & Poverty:

Activists protest 33 story apartment tower on the edge of LA's skid row

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Echo Park Pastor Detained During Immigration Appointment Released Nearly 2 Months Later

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Personnel & Animal Welfare:

Got an elephant you need to move? Here's how the LA Zoo and others safely transport large animals

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/got-an-elephant-you-need-to-move-heres-how-the-la-zoo-and-others-safely-transport-large-animals/>

Public Safety:

Off duty LAPD officer killed in Porter Ranch crash identified

<http://abc7.com/off-duty-lapd-officer-killed-in-porter-ranch-crash-idd/2442435/>

LAPD officer, 34, of Canyon Country, dies in Porter Ranch motorcycle crash

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/lapd-officer-34-of-canyon-country-dies-in-porter-ranch-motorcycle-crash/>

LAPD officer won't face new trial on accusation of filing false police report

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Gang member arrested in fatal beating of 27 year old man in Koreatown, LAPD says

<http://abc7.com/gang-member-arrested-in-fatal-beating-of-27-year-old-man-in-koreatown-lapd-says/2444011/>

Homeless Man Sentenced To Life In Prison For Using Butcher Knife To Kill South LA Woman Who Took Him In

<http://ktla.com/2017/09/22/homeless-man-who-used-butcher-knife-to-fatally-stab-woman-who-took-him-in-sentenced-to-life-in-prison/>

Homeless killer sentence for butcher knife apartment murder

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/09/22/homeless-killer-sentenced-for-butcher-knife-apartment-murder/>

Possible stolen vehicle suspect tackled, arrested after high speed chase in South LA

<http://abc7.com/suspect-arrested-after-high-speed-chase-in-south-la/2444847/>

Man Arrested After Barricade, Chase Through San Fernando Valley

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Police-Chase-Vehicle-in-San-Fernando-Valley-446989773.html>

Armed Robbery Suspect In Standoff With LAPD In Newhall Surrenders After Two Others Are Taken Into Custody

<http://ktla.com/2017/09/22/lapd-pursue-2-armed-robbery-suspects/>

2 armed robbery suspects arrested after chase, barricade in Santa Clarita

<http://abc7.com/armed-robbery-suspects-arrested-in-santa-clarita/2445045/>

Rash of burglaries has Guitar Merchant in Canoga Park signing the blues

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/22/rash-of-burglaries-has-guitar-merchant-in-canoga-park-singing-the-blues/>

LAPD Homicide Investigating After Man Found Dead In DTLA Parking Lot

<http://ktla.com/2017/09/22/lapd-homicide-investigating-after-man-found-dead-in-dtla-parking-lot/>

Man Found Dead In Downtown Los Angeles Parking Lot Suffered Blunt Force Trauma To Head
<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Man-Believed-to-Have-Suffered-Blunt-Force-Trauma-to-Head-Found-Dead-DTLA-Parking-Lot-446745553.html>

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The Crenshaw Line Will open in 2019-how are residents feeling about it?
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16347450/crenshaw-line-lax-leimert-park-metro-development>

The far out future 1960s planners envisioned for LA transit
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16229310/never-built-transit-metro>

7 transit projects that could transform LA
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Chatting with Los Angeles transit expert Ethan Elkind
<https://la.curbed.com/2017/9/21/16257922/live-chat-transit-ethan-elkind>

Metro Studying Several Train Station Change: Claremont, Northridge, El Monte and More
<http://la.streetsblog.org/2017/09/22/metro-studying-several-train-station-changes-claremont-northridge-el-monte-and-more/>

City of Los Angeles:

LA Marijuana Maps Show how Pot Shops Will Be Squeezed By Available Turf
<http://www.laweekly.com/news/cannabis-business-fights-for-more-turf-in-los-angeles-8676851>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 3:24 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]> Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

No one has ever gone straight from City Hall to the White House. Could LA Mayor Garcetti end that streak?

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-pol-essential-washington-updates-no-one-has-ever-gone-straight-from-city-1507759468-htmlstory.html>

Sen Dianne Feinstein is running for re election again, but the resistance thinks she's too bi partisan

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-feinstein-reelection-campaign-20171012-story.html>

The case for Kevin de Leon for US Senate

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article178559596.html>

Kevin de Leon Planning To Challenge Feinstein For Senate Seat, Per Report

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Leftists Are Preparing To Push Dianne Feinstein Out Of The Senate

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/43a9mb/leftists-are-preparing-to-push-dianne-feinstein-out-of-the-senate

Grants Awarded To Make New Kid's Play Zones Across LA

<https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/grants-awarded-make-new-kids-play-zones-across-l>

Carrillo and Lopez advance to runoff election for SoCal Assembly seat

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/12/76585/carrillo-and-lopez-advance-to-runoff-election-for/>

Must Read! How Nextdoor Found 10 Million People While LA City Planning Found 100

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14174-must-read-how-nextdoor-found-10-million-people-while-la-city-planning-found-100>

Alumna creates company to develop nonhormonal endometriosis treatment

<http://dailybruin.com/2017/10/13/alumna-creates-company-to-develop-nonhormonal-endometriosis-treatment/>

Eli Broad retiring from public life right now

http://www.latimes.com/archive/2017/10/eli_broad_retiring_from_p.php

LA Times

No one has ever gone straight from City Hall to the White House. Could LA Mayor Garcetti end that streak?

By Mark Barabek

There are many paths to the presidency, most of them a standard climb from one elected office to the next.

A whole passel of lawmakers have cycled their way through a governorship or the U.S. Senate en route to the White House. Others arrived with less buttoned-down backgrounds. There have been war heroes, a former haberdasher, a onetime movie actor.

And then, of course, there is the current occupant whose resume — real estate developer, beauty pageant promoter, conspiracy monger, reality TV celebrity — comprises a category all its own.

In the whole history of the United States, however, there has never been a candidate who made the leap straight from City Hall to the White House, or who even managed to win his party's presidential nomination.

Now Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is mentioned as a presidential prospect, fresh off his inauguration to a second term. He insists that more than 250 years of unbroken mayoral futility are no deterrent.

"I think all the rules are off," he told a Wisconsin TV interviewer during a June visit to the Midwestern swing state. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is."

LA Times

Sen Dianne Feinstein is running for re election again, but the resistance thinks she's too bi partisan

By Seema Mehta

Sen. Dianne Feinstein kept many in suspense for months over her decision to seek reelection, but since announcing her plans Monday to pursue a sixth term, she's made clear there will be no more waiting.

As she kicks off what could be her most difficult campaign since 1994, some members of her party are saying Feinstein's measured approach to politics no longer fits in a state that has grown markedly more liberal since she was first elected. Her allies immediately pushed back at such a notion: Feinstein's announcement was followed by a fundraising letter written by California's junior senator, Kamala Harris, whose vocal opposition to President Trump's policies have made her an increasingly popular figure on the left. Then there was a significant union endorsement, and a Beverly Hills fundraiser Tuesday night with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who warned against a "cannibalistic" intra-party fight.

Wednesday found Feinstein in her element, updating a Riverside business group about foreign, domestic and state policy issues, including dealing with an increasingly aggressive North Korea, the impact on California of Trump's tax reform proposal and the devastating wildfires in the state.

But as recently as last week, Feinstein, 84, told reporters on Wednesday and donors on Tuesday, she was debating what to do. She thought to herself that she has had a good run representing California in the Senate for a quarter-century. She has worked her entire adult life. Maybe it would be good to take some time off to enjoy her sunset years?

A conversation last week with a close friend in Washington clinched her decision.

"I came to the conclusion that this is how I'm meant to spend my life."

Feinstein's decision comes as she faces challenges she hasn't encountered in prior elections.

A restive and vocal liberal faction is arguing that Feinstein is too moderate to represent the state that has become home base for "the resistance" against Trump's agenda. Meanwhile, the nation's capital is gripped by polarization and gridlock. The ability to work across party lines to solve the nation's problems — a skill Feinstein has long prided herself on — seems less common every day.

Protesters have dogged Feinstein all year, speaking out about her opposition to single-payer healthcare, her call for "patience" with Trump's presidency and her bipartisan efforts. Outside her fundraiser Tuesday, a demonstrator held a sign that read "Retire Dianne the DINO," or Democrat in Name Only, a twist on an insult that Republicans usually hurl at others in the GOP who are deemed to lack solidly conservative credentials.

One freshman California congressman and fellow Democrat went further: He called for a primary challenge.

"On the big issues of our time, she's been on the wrong side of history," Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Fremont) said Tuesday on SiriusXM's "The Dean Obeidallah Show," citing Feinstein's vote for the Iraq war and support for the Patriot Act.

But on most issues, the California senator has voted with her party, though her record is not as liberal as those of Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts or Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Rep. Barbara Lee, an Oakland congresswoman whom Khanna urged to run, quickly said she had no plans to challenge Feinstein.

There already are several long-shot candidates running against Feinstein. California political watchers are waiting to see what Senate President Pro Tem Kevin De León decides to do, given his interest in the job and need for a next step as his time in the state Senate ends because of term limits. De León has not ruled out a primary challenge to Feinstein and is one of the few high-ranking Democrats in the state who has not commented on her reelection campaign.

Billionaire environmental activist and major Democratic donor Tom Steyer inserted himself into the speculation on Tuesday when he sent a letter to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee saying that candidates must support Trump's impeachment. He added that now is "not a time for 'patience.'"

"It is clear for all to see that there is zero reason to believe 'he can be a good president,'" he wrote, highlighting statements Feinstein made in August that caused a fiery backlash from progressives.

Any challenger would face significant obstacles going after someone with such a storied career and deep ties to the state. Moments after Feinstein announced her 2018 campaign, Harris emailed her supporters seeking to raise money for Feinstein.

"Since joining the Senate in January, I have found few better allies in our fight to stop the radical agenda of Donald Trump than Dianne. She's joined with us in every major fight," Harris wrote.

The next day, the United Farm Workers announced their endorsement of Feinstein, the first in a long list of labor groups likely to support California's senior senator. That evening, Hollywood studio executives and philanthropists raised money for Feinstein's campaign, with guests spending up to \$5,400 to attend a poolside reception at a Beverly Hills mansion hosted by Garcetti and Hollywood power players including Michael Eisner and Sherry Lansing.

As Garcetti introduced Feinstein, he warned the crowd that any primary challenge would be a grave mistake.

It would be "wrong for Democrats and what California should be doing right now," Garcetti said, ticking off Trump policies that the state needed to fight. "We have a lot of work to do."

In Riverside on Wednesday, Feinstein emphasized the importance of seniority. She talked about pushing the bump-stock legislation she introduced in the Senate in the aftermath of the mass shooting in Las Vegas. She demonstrated her fluency in issues overseas (the Iran nuclear deal) and local (the runway requirements for large cargo aircraft to land at nearby March Air Force Base).

And she looked back fondly to the ways of Washington when she first joined the Senate, recalling bipartisan groups going to a senator's personal retreat to discuss healthcare policy.

"It was congenial. We listened to one another. You'd be surprised how much people of your opposite party know, and if you really are able to talk to them [and] have an open mind, who knows what you can come up with," Feinstein said, later adding that was her goal for her remaining time in the Senate.

"God knows this is a hard time for the country. I want to do everything I can to bring people together, past the partisan divide, so we really as Americans have a common purpose."

Sac Bee

The case for Kevin de Leon for US Senate

By Christopher Caldelago

Kevin de León's got nothing to lose.

A Democrat and the leader of the state Senate, de León is ready to announce that he will challenge Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California. She is 84 and seeking her fifth six-year term in 2018.

Term limits will force de León from office, and with a crowded field of Democrats lining up to succeed Gov. Jerry Brown, the Los Angeles politician is part of a generation blocked by the bottleneck of the party's older guard. De León could wait to run for mayor of Los Angeles, but Eric Garcetti just won a 5 1/2-year term, and isn't scheduled to leave City Hall until 2022.

By that time, other Democrats could be better positioned than de León to launch statewide campaigns. Waiting in the wings are Garcetti and Secretary of State Alex Padilla, along with Reps. Adam Schiff, Eric Swalwell and Ted Lieu. Feinstein's seat is the best opportunity for de León to advance his career.

"If you are a brash, ambitious young Democrat, it's pretty hard to see how you sit this one out," said Garry South, a Democratic strategist who has run campaigns in California since 1992, when Feinstein was first elected to the Senate. History suggests it can be a beneficial move, even if he loses. Pat Brown in 1946, Alan Cranston (1966), Pete Wilson (1978), Gray Davis (1974, and later in 1992) and Feinstein herself won bigger offices after defeats.

While polls consistently show de León is not known to most voters statewide, a generational clash with Feinstein over who embodies the future of California – and in a broader sense the direction of the national party – would at a minimum elevate his stature and could position him as the frontrunner for her seat in 2024, or sooner if she doesn't serve out the full term.

"If you do it well, and you don't make a fool of yourself, it's a way to get your name out there and develop infrastructure statewide," South said.

De León has been looking at a challenge for months. He met with reporters while recently in Washington and has leaped at chances to jab Feinstein, who has urged "patience" with Donald Trump and suggested that he could still be a "good president." Last weekend, de León took on Feinstein for saying on national television that no law would have stopped the Las Vegas shooter.

The unrest from the party's vocal liberal wing could draw yet another candidate into the race: billionaire liberal donor Tom Steyer. He also took a shot at Feinstein this week for her comments about Trump.

Restive progressive protesters have turned up to demonstrate outside Feinstein's San Francisco home and shouted her down at town hall events over her unwillingness to embrace single-payer health care. She backed the war in Iraq and the Patriot Act, and more recently voted to confirm 11 of Trump's 22 Cabinet and administration nominees. Her colleague Sen. Kamala Harris voted "no" 18 times.

Democratic consultant Maclen Zilber, of California-based Jacobson & Zilber Strategies, said de León is smart to take on Feinstein. He believes the political environment may even be ripe for an upset.

"Dianne Feinstein is a something of a paper tiger," said Zilber, who is running several Democrats for statewide office and Congress in 2018. "I think she's eminently beatable."

Zilber said he sees a pathway for de León, 50, to appeal to disaffected progressives, young people, civil libertarians, people of color and Southern California residents. At the same time, he said, the state senator has also done well to keep more traditional Democrats happy through his Capitol partnership with Brown.

LAist

Kevin de Leon Planning To Challenge Feinstein For Senate Seat, Per Report

By Julia Wick

On Monday, Senator Dianne Feinstein confirmed that she was running for reelection in 2018, setting the stage for a potential primary battle if another Democrat decided to challenge her. Few California Democrats are more powerful than state Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León, and his name led the list of potential challengers in California's 2018 Senate race long before Feinstein confirmed that she was "all in."

Now, CNN is reporting that de León is planning to enter the race, per "three sources with knowledge of his plans."

According to CNN, de León has started "calling labor leaders and elected officials to inform them of his plans" and will announce soon. This comes less than 24 hours after LA Weekly's Hillel Aron christened a potential de León Senate bid as "the hot political rumor of the moment."

De León, 50, represents California's 24th Senate District, which includes downtown and East Los Angeles. He was born in Los Angeles and served four years in the Assembly prior to his election to the Senate in 2010.

In a story last month speculating on de León's post-Legislature political future, Patrick McGreevy, the L.A. Times' California Legislature reporter, wrote that "Attempting to oust a sitting senator from his own party, especially one of Feinstein's stature, would be without precedent in the modern era of California politics."

"There is no question if [Feinstein] chose not to run it would be a logical place for Kevin to go, and I think he would get tremendous support from the progressive community and Latino community and from Los Angeles," California Democratic Party Chairman Eric Bauman told the L.A. Times in September. But Feinstein did, in fact, choose to run again, and she near immediately received endorsements from fellow California Senator Kamala Harris. Los Angeles

Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The United Farm Workers have also already endorsed Feinstein, and numerous Hollywood heavy-hitters were in attendance at a fundraiser for her held the after after she announced. There were also a small group of protesters outside, as noted by L.A. Times political reporter Seema Mehta:

At 84 (she'll be 85 by the 2018 election), Feinstein is the oldest U.S. Senator currently serving. She may be a stalwart of California politics, but her centrist views have not endeared her to progressives. This is particularly true in a political climate where rising stars are making their names in opposition to the current administration, and in a state that has, according to the L.A. Times, "grown markedly more liberal since [Feinstein] was first elected." Her relevance is also debatable to some—see the very first suggested question on the first page of Google search results for "Senator Feinstein":

But can de León mobilize those progressive votes? "Kevin speaks to immigrants and young people in a way that's unique," Bauman told the Weekly. "And I think many people are frustrated by the status quo — even though he's a consummate insider — view him as an outsider with respect to Washington."

The Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles—one progressive group with an increasingly large footprint in Los Angeles—had mixed feelings. "Feinstein has served the status quo, not Californians, and anyone who runs against her needs to prove that they have the people's material interests, not special interests, at the forefront of their mind," Kelsey Goldberg, DSA-LA's communications director, said in a statement to LAist. "De León is certainly better than Feinstein, but in undermining his own sanctuary bill by capitulating to the Sheriff, he's already proven that he's capable of being just as weak-willed."

LAist reached out to de León's office for comment but did not immediately hear back.

Vice

Leftists Are Preparing To Push Dianne Feinstein Out Of The Senate

By Eve Peyser

On Monday, Dianne Feinstein, the 84-year-old Democrat who has served as one of California's senators since 1992, announced her bid for reelection. She kicked off the campaign with a Beverly Hills fundraiser, which was met with, according to a local news report, "a small but energetic crowd of protestors... demanding that Feinstein endorse the Sanders bill for single-payer healthcare."

That shows the unexpected challenge Feinstein is facing. She's an influential Democrat who has in past decades pushed progressive causes like gun control and is currently the highest-ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. But now she's under siege from the leftists who have gained newfound power in her party—and a primary challenge against her, which is all but inevitable, could be a key battle in the struggle for the soul of the Democrats.

Unsurprisingly, Feinstein has already received support from the state's most notable Democrats, including Senator Kamala Harris, congressmen Adam Schiff and Ted Lieu, and Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who was one of the hosts of her Beverly Hills fundraiser. But activists have taken issue with what they see as her centrism, especially when it comes to her opposition to Bernie Sanders's Medicare for all plan. "If single-payer healthcare is going to mean complete takeover by the government of all healthcare, I'm not there yet," she said at a town hall in April. And that isn't the only thing that has Berniecrats ready to raise hell against her.

In 2014, she joined Republicans in opposing President Barack Obama's plan to reform spy agencies. She's long been sympathetic to the national security establishment, has been a strong backer of the PATRIOT Act and NSA wiretapping programs, and was one of many Democrats to vote for the Iraq War—a decision she recently told Mother Jones that she regrets.

That doesn't mean she isn't a liberal. She has a history of for stronger gun control laws after she witnessed the assassination of San Francisco mayor George Moscone and city supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978. She recently introduced a bill to ban bump stocks after they were found in the hotel room of Stephen Paddock, the shooter who killed 58 victims in Las Vegas. And she broke with the intelligence community in 2014 when she released a committee report on the CIA's post-9/11 torture program.

That's not enough for the latest generation of California Democrats, who are more left wing than their predecessors. Kimberly Ellis, an activist who unsuccessfully ran for California Democratic Party chair earlier this year, told the New York Times that "California has changed over the two and a half decades [Feinstein] has been in office, and I don't think she's changed along with the state."

That is at least partially borne out by polls. A September UC Berkley survey found that 50 percent of eligible voters approve of Feinstein's performance, but that same the Public Policy Institute of California found that only 41 percent of California voters—and 57 percent of Democrats—thought she should run for another term. Those aren't particularly bad numbers, but they might be just weak enough to convince an ambitious politician that she's vulnerable.

Ro Khanna, a freshman congressman who represents Silicon Valley and served in the Department of Commerce under Obama, is actively trying to recruit primary challengers to unseat Feinstein—an aggressive move that shows how eager the left is to defeat her. He told Vox's Jeff Stein, "Feinstein is out of touch with the grassroots of our party on economic policy and foreign policy. After 47 years in elected office and 25 years in the Senate, she continues to cling to office as a voice for the status quo."

In an interview with Politico, Khanna, who was an outspoken supporter of Sanders in the 2016 primaries, further criticized her for being "totally out of touch when the whole debate happened on encryption," referencing the conflict between Apple and the FBI after the San Bernadino shooting. That's just one example of the larger anti-Feinstein narrative that has emerged. Her opponents are attempting to paint her as out of touch, both with the changing times and her base, mostly

without being explicit about her age.

In recent years, she's been attacked for holding positions that might once have seemed uncontroversial. In 2015, National Nurses United, the country's largest professional nurses union and a major player in progressive politics, put Feinstein on its "dishonor roll," along with several other Democrats after she voted in favor of authorizing the president to "fast track" global trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. California Senate leader Kevin de León criticized her after she told a San Francisco audience that she believes Trump "can be a good president."

On Thursday afternoon, CNN reported that León will challenge Feinstein in the primary. The report also suggested that billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer is "very much looking at the Senate race."

But Feinstein doesn't seem too concerned with the leftist criticism she's received. "I have the energy," she told the New York Times. "My mind is fine. I believe I will have strong support from Democrats—and from others." That seems likely to be tested soon.

Patch

Grants Awarded To Make New Kid's Play Zones Across LA

By Emilie Holland

A total of \$200,000 grants to fund ideas on converting everyday spaces into children's play zones were awarded to 10 winners, it was announced Thursday by Mayor Eric Garcetti and the project's partners, KaBOOM! and Dr Pepper Snapple.

The competition asked for ideas that will encourage play where there is the greatest need across the city. Recent projects from the Let's Play competition include an abandoned bus stop in McFarland which was converted into a play area, and a public sidewalk in San Francisco which had asphalt games, signs and a public chalk walk added.

"All children deserve safe, fun places to play where they can be inspired to dream," Garcetti said. "With the support of Let's Play Everywhere LA, the winners of this grant will use the power of creativity to awaken young Angelenos' imaginations and promote healthy activity in our neighborhoods."

The 10 winners are:

Kester Elementary School, 5353 Kester Ave.

Pico Union Project, 1201 Valencia St.

California Greenworks, Inc., 1782 W. Gage Ave.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, 2800 W. Pico Blvd.

Grant Housing and Economic Development Corporation, 10205 Compton Ave.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St.

Proyecto Pastoral, 125 N. Mission Rd.

Youth Policy Institute, 421 Rosemont Ave.

American Southwest Railway Association, 5200 Zoo Drive

Pico Great Street Collaborative, 1407 Hauser Blvd.

"Let's Play Everywhere LA will make play the easy choice for kids and families in their communities," said James Siegal, CEO of KaBOOM!. "The winning projects offer more opportunities for families to ensure children can get the play they need to thrive. With the support from Dr Pepper Snapple and the city of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, more kids across Los Angeles County will get the childhood they deserve through great, safe places to play."

Applicants for the award were restricted to government entities, non-profits or individuals/groups who have partnered with them. More about the 10 selected grantees, including photos and descriptions of their upcoming projects, can be found at kaboom.org/la.

KPCC

Carrillo and Lopez advance to runoff election for SoCal Assembly seat

By Riley Beggin

Democrats Wendy Carrillo and Luis Lopez, who are running to replace former Los Angeles Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez, will move on to the general election runoff on Dec. 5.

Just over 10 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in the special election on Oct. 3, which is among the lowest turnouts this year for a county-run election.

Carrillo received 22 percent of the vote and Lopez received close to 19 percent, according to the County Clerk's office. A single candidate would have had to receive at least 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff election.

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors is will declare the results official on Oct. 17, according to the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder.

Gomez resigned from his position in the California state assembly after being elected to Congress to represent California's 34th District in a special runoff election in June. The seat became available when Xavier Becerra was appointed California's attorney general.

Carrillo and Lopez ran against 11 other candidates in the primary election to represent the 51st Assembly District, which covers parts of northeast and east Los Angeles. The AP reported that the district is solidly Democratic, has one of the largest Latino populations in the state and has a large LGBT community.

Carrillo was endorsed by organizations such as the legislative Women's Caucus, the state Democratic party and Emily's List, and Lopez was backed by groups such as Equality California, Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club.

City Watch

Must Read! How Nextdoor Found 10 Million People While LA City Planning Found 100

By Jorge Castenada

In 2013, I was organizing for the startup Nextdoor, the social networking app for neighborhoods whose logo is a cute 'n chunky house. Nobody had heard of Nextdoor, and Los Angeles had only a handful of users. Four years later, Nextdoor has 10 million registered users in 160,000 neighborhoods in the U.S., Netherlands, U.K., and Germany.

Our Los Angeles team was one dozen organizers, and our assignment was to somehow connect tens of thousands of neighbors with each other. Our shoestring campaign was one of sustained outreach, integration of community input, and thoughtful collaboration with allies like LA's all-volunteer Neighborhood Councils.

It is a brutal grind for a team of 12 to canvass our famous urban sprawl, but we understood the potential of the tech we were introducing – we'd compared the health effects of living in a neighborhood whose residents talked to each other, to a neighborhood that was isolated or alienated. Whenever we felt overwhelmed we recalled the larger canvass of empowering communities, and we pressed on.

Doggedly analytical, we identified and built upon community values shared by Neighborhood Councils and other stakeholders. Communication and transparency became critical components, since Nextdoor was integrating community desires into its product. Here is what sustained the Nextdoor campaign: fully transparent communication to inspire open collaboration among hundreds, and later tens of thousands, of Angelenos.

I saw the same collaborative values during Obama 2012, for which I was Valley Deputy Field Director. Fast-forward to Hillary 2016, where I ran the East LA Campaign Office and saw her movement falter. I spent a lot of time pondering what happened. In the fog of cyberwar, the Hillary campaign asked millions their opinions, but failed to hear the answers.

So, it's 2017, I have that lesson in the back of my mind. I began organizing for the non-profit Coalition to Preserve LA, which is a citywide movement of concerned residents who believe in open government, people-oriented planning, equitable housing and environmental stewardship through advocacy and empowering communities.

The Coalition, along with about 30 Neighborhood Councils, spent six months in 2017 pushing and urging City Hall to engage in fully open, bottom-up discussions around the first comprehensive update of the city's General Plan since the Vietnam War.

The General Plan Update is the blueprint for making LA a better place as it grows. Under California law, the public must be given a say from the start in shaping the "Elements," including open space, parks, infrastructure, land-use, public safety and other critical issues.

Measured against our 12 organizers at Nextdoor, LA's 350-strong Department of Planning is an unsettling master class on how to avoid public input. City Planners held non-transparent, private, invitation-only debates this year to shape the Open Space Element. After intense public criticism about that, from LA Tenants Union, Hillside Federation and more than 30 Neighborhood Councils, City Planning opened a single Open Space debate to the public. A standing-room-only crowd showed up. The deep concerns expressed that day were jotted down as fragments, by a city employee, on a flip-chart — and never seen again.

This month, City Planning is unveiling its Open Space Element "outline" at four public hearings. The hearings are proving to bend the concept of "public." The first two, in Westwood and the Valley, were not advertised. I counted 35 members of the public in Westwood, and maybe 60 at the Valley hearing — many of them alerted by Coalition to Preserve LA. The last two are set for Oct. 21 in South LA, and Oct. 25 in Hollywood. Almost nobody knows about them. (See schedule at end of article.)

Let's compare those tiny gatherings to what City Hall is capable of. "Vision Zero" is a \$32 million pet project of Mayor Garcetti's transportation czar, who got a \$700,000 budget for consultants to hold up wacky signs on street corners, pitch-makers to attend Neighborhood Councils promoting a Swedish street safety concept, and radio ads. It was all over town. Vision Zero backfired because city officials downplayed their underlying goal — to close busy commuter lanes, known as a "road diet."

But is Vision Zero's sneakiness a more acute failure than a General Plan nobody has heard of?

The General Plan is LA's shared vision for addressing climate change, livability, growth, open spaces, infrastructure and public safety. On Oct. 2, City Planner Ken Bernstein told the small Westside hearing, "we have no funding" to truly involve the public.

You should probably read that last paragraph again.

In the same vein, City Planning held four public hearings in September for its \$10.8 million Re:code LA program, attracting just 28 people. One meeting had four attendees. Re:code LA, by the way, is merely a sweeping system that will affect land-use and zoning for all of LA's 3.97 million residents.

One may conclude that Mayor Eric Garcetti's April 2016 vow to give Angelenos "a sense of ownership over the development of their communities" was an optional vow.

Which brings me to Boyle Heights, whose gentrification battles personify the problem of introducing change built upon minimal public awareness and little to no buy-in.

Already jumpy about the city's push to gentrify Boyle Heights for upscale new residents, Boyle Heights will be the first of LA's Community Plans subjected to the Re:code LA experiment.

Recently, a worried Boyle Heights resident asked City Planning for public documents generated during the long "technical phase" of the Community Plan, a closed-door period in which city planners are remapping the future of Boyle Heights.

The resident discovered that no public documents exist from the "technical phase," a glaring violation of the California Public Records Act. All other government documents on the Boyle Heights Community Plan are entirely public, except for these. Why?

Here, one may conclude that a pledge by City Councilman Jose Huizar to bring "accountability and transparency back into our General Plan and Community Plan processes," was an optional pledge.

This month, nearly 3.97 million Angelenos will not attend the four public hearings to discuss the Open Space Element of the General Plan. But you should go.

The last time the General Plan was updated, in 1970, city planners and LA residents didn't know about climate change, the Hollywood or Northridge earthquake fault locations or the stunning role our urban tree canopy plays in human health and cleansing the air.

Now we do. Under state law and common sense, our General Plan must reflect the public's vision, not a top-down vision from City Planning.

If 12 Nextdoor organizers like me can launch an unknown concept on a shoestring budget and craft a shared vision embraced by thousands of people, common sense suggests a city with 35,000-plus employees and a \$9.2 billion budget has no excuse for failing to join the current Millennium.

Daily Bruin

Alumna creates company to develop nonhormonal endometriosis treatment

By Laurel Scott

Tanya Petrossian is fighting against an overlooked epidemic that affects more than 10 percent of girls and women worldwide.

Petrossian, who received her bachelor's and doctorate degrees at UCLA, founded EndoCyclic Therapeutics in 2017 to develop the world's first nonhormone therapeutic treatment for endometriosis, a chronic disease that Petrossian was diagnosed with in February.

"I like to say that endometriosis attacked the wrong girl, because we're fighting back," Petrossian said. "A disease that attacks 10 percent of our girls and women worldwide attacks all of us, so let's wipe it out."

Endometriosis is a disorder in which the tissue that normally lines the uterus begins to grow on other organs in the pelvis, causing lesions and scar tissues and provoking pain and a heightened immune response from the body, Petrossian said. It is the leading cause of infertility and disability in women ages 15 to 45, and is estimated to affect 176 million women globally.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti selected Petrossian in September for this year's Entrepreneurs in Residence program, which helps successful entrepreneurs in Los Angeles connect with future business leaders and foster growth in their industries.

Garcetti said in a statement he chose Petrossian because she is a successful leader and entrepreneur in the biotechnology industry. He added Petrossian will focus on developing the growing biotech and health care sector in Los Angeles and lead initiatives to mentor girls and women interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

Petrossian originally tested positive for ovarian cancer in 2016, but doctors later diagnosed her with endometriosis after she underwent surgery. She said she thinks she has suffered from the disease since she was a teenager.

"I've had pain ever since I was a teenager but would never admit it," Petrossian said. "I had at least three instances (when) I went into anaphylactic shock from my allergies, and that was my first indication that something was wrong."

Petrossian said endometriosis is the most overlooked women's health issue in the world, partly because it is currently only diagnosed by testing lesions removed through surgery.

"It's quite shocking that such a high percentage of girls and women are walking around with it and don't know," she said.

Petrossian started EndoCyclic Therapeutics because she was frustrated that the only available treatments for endometriosis were invasive surgery and hormone options, which make many women violently ill, she said.

Instead, EndoCyclic Therapeutics is using small molecules that invade endometriosis disease cells directly, according to the company's website.

Petrossian said she had a passion in high school for science, and how math and chemistry can explain biological processes in the human body.

Tina Petrossian, Petrossian's mother, said her daughter frequently volunteered in hospitals in high school.

"I always believed she was going to cure cancer, or whatever she decided to focus on," Tina Petrossian said. "When she focuses on something there's absolutely nothing that can stand in her way."

While pursuing her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at UCLA, Tanya Petrossian worked in the lab of biochemistry professor Steven Clarke.

Tanya Petrossian said while working in the lab, she identified more than 200 genes translated for methyltransferases, enzymes that control the expression of certain genes and may have implications for treating cancer, aging and neurological disorders.

Clarke said Tanya Petrossian was a driven student who was able to use genomic data to make correct mathematical predictions about the genes' activity.

"Her work opened the field up for others to make more discoveries," he said. "Being bright, hardworking and an outstanding communicator was a combination that was very successful for her."

Clarke added Tanya Petrossian's papers have become classics in the field and have been widely cited in scientific journals.

As an EIR for Garcetti, Tanya Petrossian said she plans to work with the mayor's office to create a network for female professionals, graduate students, undergraduates and grade school students to provide girls interested in STEM careers with guidance and mentorship.

"Out of 100 (undergraduate students), 12 will graduate with a STEM major and only three will continue to work in a STEM field 10 years later," Tanya Petrossian said. "I always point to my mom as my mentor, and other people I've (acquainted with) along the way, as one of the reasons I'm a successful businesswoman in the STEM field."

Tanya Petrossian added she wants to bring more nontraditional investors, who often invest in apps or tech devices, to the biotech and health care industries.

She also said she plans to be one of the clinical trial patients for the treatment EndoCyclic Therapeutics is developing.

"Girls and women who are suffering from endometriosis often feel like (they're) not heard," Tanya Petrossian said. "But we hear you, and we are working to get it addressed."

LA Observed

Eli Broad retiring from public life right now

By Kevin Roderick

The philanthropist, arts patron and Los Angeles civic leader Eli Broad summoned the New York Times bureau chief in LA to his office on Thursday to announce that he was stepping away from his longtime public role. "Now. Right now," Broad told the NYT's Adam Nagourney. "I am just tired. I want to spend more time with my family. Catch up on my reading."

Broad is 84. "We have been thinking about this for a long time," he said. "The time has come."

More than once in recent years, Broad has made it known that his role as behind-the-scenes power broker, counselor and financier on any number of Los Angeles issues and causes would not go on forever and that the city needed to develop new leaders. In the NYT interview, Broad suggested the names of some other wealthy men who might step in to fill his place in Los Angeles civic affairs. They included, per the NYT, Clippers owner Steve Ballmer, Disney chief executive Bob Iger, Hollywood mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg and Nicolas Berggruen, the philanthropist and investor who is building a home for his think tank in Sepulveda Pass.

From the NYT story:

It is difficult to overstate Mr. Broad's importance to Los Angeles. His vast fortune has shaped the city, from its arts and medical worlds to its reinvigorated downtown. He has lived here for 52 years, since coming from Detroit as a young entrepreneur. He has been a confidant of mayors and governors, an aggressive advocate for charter schools and a heavy contributor to medical causes, particularly stem-cell research. He has given away or pledged \$4 billion in his life. The endowment for the Broad Foundations, his main philanthropic arm, is \$2.5 billion. His current net worth is \$7.3 billion, which he made in construction and insurance.

Mr. Broad has promised to give away 75 percent of his fortune. He has, at times, been a polarizing figure, fighting with teachers unions over charter schools and at one point feuding with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art over construction costs for a wing built there in his name.

Although Mr. Broad said he considered the money given to education and medical research his biggest accomplishment, his contributions to the city's art and cultural world may well prove the most enduring legacy — particularly for Los Angeles's now-thriving downtown.

Mr. Broad said he reached the decision in recent weeks after long discussions with his wife, Edythe, who he said has long urged him to retire. Mr. Broad has prostate cancer, diagnosed more than a decade ago, which is in remission, and he undergoes daily physical therapy for intense back pain, though he said his health was not a factor in his decision.

The NYT said that the "practical ramifications of Mr. Broad's decision may be limited," citing his naming last year of Gerun Riley to oversee his investments in art, science and educational causes. Four new members to the board of directors of the Broad Foundation have also been named recently. The Broad Museum on Bunker Hill is going strong, "having drawn 1.5 million visitors since the doors opened" in Sept. 2015.

During Tribune Company ownership of the Los Angeles Times, Broad engaged in discussions about being part of an ownership group that would attempt to buy the paper or move it under local non-profit ownership. Nothing ever came of the talks, and it was notable that for his big announcement on Thursday he went to the New York Times, not his hometown paper. (Though he certainly has been active in New York and other cities, the Broads live in Brentwood and his offices are in Century City.)

LA Times assistant managing editor Shelby Grad tweeted the news about Broad with a link to the NYT.

Later in the day, the LAT also posted a story that cited the New York paper and was forced to include this sentence:

"Broad was not available for an interview Thursday." The lede:

Billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad has been a driving force in the intellectual and cultural life of Los Angeles, pouring money into its universities, championing charter schools, and helping to reshape its downtown.

Now he is stepping back from day-to-day operations at the foundation that bears his name.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation posted a release with the news as well.

Eli Broad announced today that he is retiring from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and handing over day-to-day operations to the foundation's president, Gerun Riley.

Broad, who co-founded the foundation with his wife Edythe, will remain a trustee of the foundation. He will also continue to serve on the board of directors of The Broad museum in downtown Los Angeles.

"At age 84, I have decided the time has come for me to step back," Broad said. "Though I'm in great health, I am eager to spend more time with my family."

Broad appointed Riley, formerly the foundation's senior vice president and a 14-year member of its team, as his successor last year.

"Edye and I have the utmost confidence in Gerun's vision, leadership and ability to carry the foundation's work forward.," Broad said.

In 1999, after merging SunAmerica with AIG, the Broads dedicated themselves fulltime to philanthropy. Over the course of their lifetimes, they have given more than \$4 billion to support K-12 public schools, advance scientific and medical research and bring contemporary art to as wide an audience as possible.

The Broad Foundations, which include The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and The Broad Art Foundation, were established to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. For more information, visit www.broadfoundation.org.

"His imagination, tenacity and generosity have helped shape our city, from the arts to education to architecture," Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement. "Eli is only retiring, which means we'll have him in our midst for many years to come. I'll be calling on him often."

City Council:

Councilman Huizar says his wife is weighing her own bid for city office

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-huizar-wife-20171012-story.html>

LA Councilmen move to protect street vendors in parks

<https://www.scp.org/programs/take-two/2017/10/12/59631/la-councilmen-move-to-protect-street-vendors-in-pa/>

Street vending in parks would be almost legal under new proposal

<https://www.scp.org/news/2017/10/11/76550/la-city-proposal-aims-to-remove-criminal-penalties/>

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Grants Awarded To Make New Kid's Play Zones Across LA

<https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/grants-awarded-make-new-kids-play-zones-across-l>

Halprin's Reimagining Of Urban Parks On Display Throughout LA

<http://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/225780/halprins-reimagining-of-urban-parks-on-display-throughout-l-a/>

Griffith Park Ghost Train Opens

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Weekend-Griffith-Park-Ghost-Train-Opens-450630213.html>

Economic Development:

64 story tower near FIGat7th could get underway by 2019

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16465972/downtown-la-development-skyscraper-figueroa>

Plans for a 21 story tower dropped from massive Figueroa Street project

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16467074/fig-development-exposition-park-tower>

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

Ethics hearing for LAUSD's Ref Rodriguez, his cousin could happen next year

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/ethics-hearing-for-lausds-ref-rodriguez-his-cousin-could-happen-next-year/>

Educators from Los Angeles and Orange counties are among California Teachers of the Year

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/11/educators-from-los-angeles-and-orange-counties-among-california-teachers-of-the-year/>

Students get behind the scenes training for technical theater jobs

<https://www.scp.org/news/2017/10/12/76534/students-get-behind-the-scenes-training-for-techni/>

Proof! Neighborhood Councils Are Protectors Of The Community

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14165-proof-neighborhood-councils-are-protectors-of-the-community>

Homelessness & Poverty:

These small pods could bring a big solution for LA County's homeless crisis

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/these-small-pods-could-bring-a-big-solution-for-la-countys-homeless-crisis/>

Housing:

Housing For Trafficking Victims

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/327-nc-politics/14173-housing-for-trafficking-victims>

Human trafficking refuge from abuse: LA Council's rescue plan

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/12/human-trafficking-refuge-from-abuse-la-councils-rescue-plan/>

LA Is Doing Too Well For High Rents To Fall

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/los-angeles-rent-forecast-sees-continued-increases-8743670>

Study: LA, OC Rent Increases Continue Into 2019

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/study-rent-increases-into-2019/>

Los Angeles prefab company unveils its first sleek unit

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16459568/prefab-homes-company-cover-backyard-studios>

Trying to buy an affordable entry level house in California? Good luck!

<https://mynews1a.com/business/2017/10/12/housing-affordability-diminishes-for-buyers-struggling-to-get-into-the-market/>

Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights & Equity:

These Dinners For DACA Make It Easier For People To Make A Difference

<http://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/dinners-for-daca/>

Planning & Land Use Management:

Planning Commission backs big Westlake development but asks for more affordable housing

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16464896/lake-on-wilshire-development-planning-commission>

Los Angeles: Illegal Planning Capital Of The World

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14176-los-angeles-illegal-planning-capital-of-the-world>

Public Safety:

Argument Leads To Victim Being Fatally Shot In Back In South LA Neighborhoods

<http://ktla.com/2017/10/12/argument-leads-to-victim-being-fatally-shot-in-back-in-south-la-neighborhood/>

Man, 30, shot, hurt near South Los Angeles Walgreens Pharmacy

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/12/man-30-shot-hurt-near-south-los-angeles-walgreens-pharmacy/>

1 Hospitalized After Shooting In Baldwin Hills

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/1-hospitalized-after-shooting-in-baldwin-hills/vp-AAthW5>

LAPD helicopter makes emergency landing at Dodger Stadium

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-dodgers-stadium-landing-20171012-story.html>

Woman's body washes ashore in Venice Beach

<http://abc7.com/womans-body-washes-ashore-venice-beach/2524126/>

Body Of Woman Found On Venice Beach

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Venice-Beach-Body-Investigation-450635433.html>

Bod Washes Ashore In Venice

<https://yovenice.com/2017/10/12/33396/>

Valley first responders praised for getting the call, acting quickly, sacrifice

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/valley-first-responders-praised-for-getting-the-call-acting-quickly-sacrifice/>

LAPD seeks help finding brazen Hollywood burglar

<http://abc7.com/lapd-seeks-help-finding-hollywood-burglar/2526603/>

Police Seeks Man Who Burglarized Hollywood Apartment

<http://www.nbclausangeles.com/news/local/Unidentified-Burglar-Hollywood-Police-to-Ask-for-Publics-Help-450712113.html>

10 months after Valley teen's assault, bill targeting social media driven attacks becomes state law

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/10-months-after-valley-teens-assault-bill-targeting-social-media-driven-attacks-becomes-state-law/>

Security Costs end Wildly Popular Haunted House In Sherman Oaks

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/boney-island-ends/>

Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations:

Billboard company owner faces \$15,000 fine over political donations

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ethics-fine-20171012-story.html>

Trade, Travel & Tourism:

Container Volumes Rise At Ports Of Long Beach, Los Angeles

<http://labusinessjournal.com/news/2017/oct/12/container-volumes-rise-ports-long-beach-los-angeles/>

Clean Air Action Plan will reshape our ports-for the better or the worse

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/10/12/clean-air-action-plan-will-reshape-our-ports-for-the-better-or-the-worse/>

Recovered SpaceX booster rocket arrives at the Port of Los Angeles

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/12/recovered-spacex-booster-rocket-arrives-at-the-port-of-los-angeles/>

Toyota's hydrogen fuel cell trucks are now moving goods around the Port of LA

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/10/12/16461412/toyota-hydrogen-fuel-cell-truck-port-la>

LAX first responders will start arriving on two wheels, not four

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/12/lax-first-responders-will-start-arriving-on-two-wheels-not-four/>

Qantas commits to use biofuels at LAX from 2020

<https://www.flightglobal.com/news/articles/qantas-commits-to-use-biofuels-at-lax-from-2020-442142/>

Metro:

Metro Urges Manners With Japanese Pop Inspired Videos

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/metro-urges-manners-new-videos/>

Gold Line and Metrolink battle for riders

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/gold-line-and-metrolink-battle-for-rail-riders/>

Mulholland Institute Exec Director Opposes Metro Rail Site

<http://www.sfbj.com/news/2017/oct/12/mulholland-institute-exec-director-opposes-metro-r/>

City of Los Angeles:

Eli Broad, Patron of Los Angeles, To Step Down From His Philanthropy

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/12/arts/eli-broad-foremost-patron-of-los-angeles-to-step-down-from-his-philanthropy.html>

Eli Broad, top philanthropist and power broker, is stepping back from his foundation work

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-eli-broad-steps-back-20171012-story.html>

Philanthropist Eli Broad announces his retirement

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/philanthropist-eli-broad-announces-his-retirement/>

LA Philanthropist Eli Broad To Retire

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/la-philanthropist-eli-broad-to-retire/>

LA Mega Patron Eli Broad To Retire From Philanthropic Work

http://laist.com/2017/10/12/broad_retires.php

Billionaire Eli Broad Is Retiring From Public Life At Age 84

<http://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/eli-broad-retirement/>

No matter how bad it gets, 8 reasons the Chargers will never leave Los Angeles

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/chargers/2017/10/12/no-matter-how-bad-gets-8-reasons-chargers-never-leave-los-angeles/757566001/>

Kings broadcaster Bob Miller to be honored with Staples statue

<http://abc7.com/sports/kings-broadcaster-miller-to-be-honored-with-statue/2525703/>

Predictable Cash & Endorsements Fuel The Lifer Pipeline For Assembly District 51

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14171-predictable-cash-endorsements-fuel-the-lifer-pipeline-for-assembly-district-51>



Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

1 message

Jordan Burns <jordan.burns@lacity.org>
To: Jordan Burns <jordan.burns@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, May 29, 2019 at 7:08 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

NEW YORK TIMES: A Ballot Measure Could Help Los Angeles Schools, but Will Voters Support It?

LA TIMES: Chinese tourism to U.S. drops for first time in 15 years

LA TIMES: Black market cannabis shops thrive in L.A. even as city cracks down

STREETSBLOG LA: This Week In Livable Streets

LA SCHOOL REPORT: \$500M annual parcel tax unlikely to pass if low voter turnout trend persists, poll shows

FOX AND HOUNDS DAILY: Mayoral Mismatch

YO! VENICE: MTA Bridge Housing Operator Chosen, Injunction Denied

HR TECHNOLOGIST: The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation Partners with Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology to pilot WorkforceReady

LIBERATION NEWS: The struggle is in the streets: LA's ruling class attacks the houseless

THE BULWARK: The Democratic Debates Are Going To Be a Clownshow

GRIT DAILY: THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM LA: FASHION

New York Times

A Ballot Measure Could Help Los Angeles Schools, but Will Voters Support It?

By Jill Cowan

Good morning.

(Here's the sign-up, if you don't already get California Today by email.)

Today, we have an update on the Los Angeles teachers' strike, part of a series of protests by educators that have rippled across the state this year. The dispatch comes from my colleague, Jennifer Medina:

When L.A. teachers went on strike earlier this year, public opinion seemed to swing in their favor. Drivers honked enthusiastically when they passed by schools crowded with protests, presidential candidates backed the teachers' demands, and celebrities took it as an opportunity to decry longstanding underfunding of California public schools.

The strike ended with a deal brokered by **Mayor Eric Garcetti** to cap class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors at schools throughout the district.

Now comes the test: Are taxpayers willing to fork over more money for the Los Angeles Unified School District with a parcel tax?

The agreement between the teachers' union and school district officials relied on finding an additional \$403 million to pay for the plan. Despite California's liberal reputation, the state lags far behind other states in education spending. And while school officials continue to press Sacramento to increase funding, several school districts have approved local tax increases to pay for public schools.

Getting voters to the polls can be difficult in the best of circumstances. It may prove herculean next Tuesday, when Measure EE — as the 16-cents-per-square-foot parcel tax is officially called — is the only issue on the ballot. The measure would generate \$6 billion for Los Angeles schools in the next 12 years.

In addition to the teachers' union and the mayor, the ballot measure has attracted support from presidential candidates. But the Chamber of Commerce and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association have aggressively campaigned against it, saying the school system needs to manage existing funding better.

Conventional wisdom suggests that the higher the turnout, the more likely Measure EE will win. Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of United Teachers Los Angeles, said the union had been "knocking doors every day" to get homeowners' support.

If Measure EE fails, it is unlikely that the district can stick with the promises made amid the strike deal.

"In the short term if it doesn't pass we're looking at the status quo," said Yuseff Robb, a spokesman for the Yes on EE campaign. "Shortly thereafter it will give way to cuts. When you have 46 kids in a classroom how much further can you go?"

Here's what else we're following

(We often link to sites that limit access for nonsubscribers. We appreciate your reading Times coverage, but we also encourage you to support local news if you can.)

Senator Kamala Harris at an event in Los Angeles. CreditMike Blake/Reuters

- Amid a wave of states passing sharp abortion restrictions, Senator Kamala Harris proposed requiring states and local governments that have histories of unconstitutionally restricting abortion rights to get federal approval before they can enact such laws. It's similar to a provision in the Voting Rights Act. [The New York Times]
- The California Democratic Party, racked by scandal and divided by infighting, is facing three lawsuits. And yet, as the party prepares for its annual convention in San Francisco, observers say it's doing just fine. [CALmatters]
- West Hollywood Prep, the school where proctors were suspected of giving test answers to kids of parents implicated in the college admissions scandal, was also giving diplomas to nonstudents for a fee. [The Los Angeles Times]
- Police executed seven search warrants in their investigation into how a freelance journalist got a leaked police report about the February death of Jeff Adachi, San Francisco's longtime public defender. The revelation suggests the probe has been wider than previously known. [The San Francisco Chronicle]
- Yet another metric of the housing crisis: Home prices in Southern California are rising four times faster than wages. [Los Angeles Daily News]
- Google's temps and contractors outnumber the company's full-time work force. The company's increasing reliance on those workers has employees wondering if management is undermining its vaunted culture. [The New York Times]

Images making waves

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez responded to a video that seemed to compare her to dictators.

CreditSeth Wenig/Associated Press

- A Memorial Day tribute video shown at a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game seemed to compare Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with Kim Jong-un and Fidel Castro. Team officials said the video was shown by mistake. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez responded. [The Fresno Bee]
- A San Diego State graduate honored her parents by posing for a moving photo with them in the field where they work. "Their sacrifice to come to this country to give us a better future was well worth it," she said. [CNN]
- Ali Wong and Randall Park talk about the subtle subversion of making a "When Harry Met Sally" or a "Boomerang" about a pair of normal Asian-Americans. [The New York Times]
- Forget the Met Gala. Here are some of the best, campiest looks from RuPaul's DragCon, which took over the Los Angeles Convention Center last weekend. [Vogue]

The Times in California

- If you couldn't make it to the event, watch Nahanatchka Khan, who directed the film "Always Be My Maybe," talk with Sopan Deb. [Times Events]

And Finally ...

Claudette Zepeda-Wilkins finishes a dish of vegetable enmoladas at El Jardín, one of the Bib Gourmand restaurants. CreditJohn Francis Peters for The New York Times

You may recall that when the Michelin Guide announced it was expanding to cover restaurants statewide it was kind of a big deal — the fact that the state's tourism board paid for that expansion notwithstanding.

In previous years, Michelin inspectors had hit only San Francisco.

That California guide, which will award restaurants across the state those coveted stars, is set to be released early next month.

On Tuesday, though, presumably to tide over diners hungry to try Michelin-anointed eats, the organization released its list of 151 Bib Gourmand restaurants from Sacramento to San Diego, where you can get meals of at least two courses, plus a glass of wine or a dessert, for \$40 or less.

In other words, it's a neat resource if your budget doesn't permit you to drop \$300 for dinner with any regularity.

The only other catch is that if you're on the Bib Gourmand list, you can't also be starred. Which means speculation has begun.

LA Times

Chinese tourism to U.S. drops for first time in 15 years

By Associated Press

After more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend.

Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7% in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, which collects data from U.S. Customs forms. It was the first time since 2003 that Chinese travel to the U.S. slipped from the prior year.

Friction between the U.S. and China is one reason for the slowdown. The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese solar panels and washing machines in January 2018, and the trade war has escalated from there. The U.S. now has a 25% tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, while China has retaliated with tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. imports.

Last summer, China issued a travel warning for the U.S., telling its citizens to beware of shootings, robberies and high costs for medical care. The U.S. shot back with its own warning about travel to China.

Wang Haixia, who works at an international trade company in Beijing, traveled to the U.S. in May for her sister's graduation. She and her family planned to spend 10 days in Illinois and New York.

Wang says she might have stayed longer but doesn't want to contribute to the U.S. economy amid the trade war.

"I cannot cancel this trip because I promised my sister I would go to her commencement," she said. "My relatives will contribute more than 100,000 yuan to America just staying for 10 days, and that's enough."

Los Angeles, however, is bucking the national trend.

Visitors from China set an all-time high of 1.2 million in 2018, a 6.9% increase from the previous year, making Los Angeles County the top-ranked U.S. city for Chinese travelers.

After a slight decline in 2017, the number of visitors from Mexico also reached a record, with 1.8 million guests, a 4% increase, according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. The number of visitors from Canada, Britain, Japan, Scandinavia and India also recorded substantial increases in 2018.

In response to President Trump's anti-immigration statements and efforts to ban travel from several predominantly Muslim countries, **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti** and other tourism officials created a campaign to send a message of welcome to tourists, especially from Mexico and largely Muslim countries.

The campaign featured a music video that appeared on social media sites in Canada, China, Mexico, Britain and Australia. In all, 7.5 million international travelers and 42.5 million domestic travelers came to Los Angeles last year.

However, economic uncertainty in China has travelers at the lower end of the market vacationing closer to home, says Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which found that 56% of travelers leaving China in the last three months of 2018 went to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan compared with 50% in 2017. Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal.

Chinese travel to the U.S. had already been moderating from its breakneck pace earlier this decade. In 2000, 249,000 Chinese visited the U.S. That tripled to 802,000 by 2010, then tripled again by 2015, in part because of higher incomes, better long-haul flight connections and an easing of visa restrictions, according to McKinsey, the consulting firm

The U.S. welcomed more than 3 million Chinese visitors in 2016 and 2017. But year-over-year growth edged up just 4% in 2017, the slowest pace in more than a decade.

Most industry-watchers agree that any downturn is temporary, because China's middle class will only continue to expand. The U.S. government forecasts Chinese tourism will grow 2% this year to 3.3 million visitors, and will reach 4.1 million visitors in 2023.

"Even if the Chinese economy cools, it's still going to continue to be a very good source of growth for the travel industry," said David Huether, senior vice president of research for the U.S. Travel Assn.

In general, international travel to the U.S. has been declining. Overall data for 2018 haven't been released yet, but international travel fell 2% in 2016 and was flat in 2017.

Tourists from China pose for photographs at Rockefeller Center in New York on Nov. 12, 2017. (Kathy Willens / Associated Press)

But because China commands some of the highest tourism traffic to the U.S., any falloff will be felt by destinations that have come to rely on Chinese spending power. In 2017, the country had the fifth highest number of U.S.-bound tourists, behind Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. Ten years earlier, China wasn't even on the top 10 list, falling behind countries like Germany, France, South Korea and Australia, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office.

China didn't crack the top 10 list until 2011 and has been climbing ever since. Spending by Chinese visitors — which doesn't include students — ballooned more than 600% between 2008 and 2016, to nearly \$18.9 billion. In 2017, that fell by 1% to \$18.8 billion, or about 12% of overall tourism spending.

To hold onto those dollars, experts say the tourism industry must do more to keep up with Chinese travelers and their changing needs.

Larry Yu, a professor of hospitality management at George Washington University, notes that Chinese tourists — particularly younger ones — are increasingly planning trips using social media apps like WeChat and are less likely to book through big tour groups. They have also rapidly adopted smartphone-based payment systems.

Destinations should invest in those technologies now if they want to continue attracting Chinese tourists, says David Becker, former CEO of Attract China, a New York-based travel consultancy.

"A lot of companies looked at the Chinese market as easy money, but we have to be relevant to the Chinese," Becker said. Attract China, for instance, has helped luxury stores in Manhattan incorporate Jeenie, a live translation app, and add Alipay and WeChat Pay for mobile payments.

Others have also been stepping up their efforts. The Beverly Center mall in Los Angeles caters to busloads of Chinese tourists and mid-size groups. But now it also focuses on small groups of fewer than 10 VIP shoppers, says Susan Vance, the mall's marketing and sponsorship director. The mall has also pushed stores to offer China UnionPay, a digital payment service. More than 100 stores now have it, Vance says, up from three in 2014.

Tourism officials are also catching onto WeChat. In late 2017, Washington, D.C., became the first U.S. city to launch an interactive guide in the app. Chinese travelers can use it to get directions to attractions, access audio tours in Mandarin and find dining and shopping. The city's marketing office has one staff member dedicated to WeChat.

Washington also recently launched a Welcome China program that teaches hotels, restaurants and other venues about Chinese customs and encourages them to offer things like Chinese-language menus or in-room slippers. Forty-four hotels and a handful of restaurants have signed on.

Elliott Ferguson, president and CEO of Destination DC, the city's marketing office, said the number of Chinese tourists visiting Washington doubled in the last five years before falling slightly in 2017. But Ferguson, who traveled to China last month to meet with tourism officials, said there's still significant interest in travel to the U.S.

"We're beefing up our efforts because we see there's so much potential for growth," he said.

LA Times

Black market cannabis shops thrive in L.A. even as city cracks down

By JAMES QUEALLY and BEN WELSH

From the street, it looked like an old-school drug raid.

A half-dozen police and city vehicles sat near the entrance of the White Castle cannabis dispensary near the Los Angeles Harbor, where a sign bearing a giant green cross faced Pacific Coast Highway.

But the cops didn't seize any marijuana from the illegal shop. No one was arrested, just detained briefly while utility workers moved to shut off power. The officers had been there before and would likely be back. One detective guessed the business would be up and running again in a week.

Amid growing complaints from lawmakers and cannabis lobbyists about the city's teeming marketplace for unregulated weed, Los Angeles in recent months has ramped up enforcement against illegal pot dispensaries. But with so much money on the line, many violators are choosing to stay open even after the city has cut off their power or threatened them with arrests or fines.

The state's marijuana market got off to a sluggish start in 2018, with revenue from the first year of legal sales falling \$160 million short of what was projected in former Gov. Jerry Brown's final budget. High taxes and the refusal of many cities to allow legal cannabis sales have been blamed, while those restrictions have allowed a resilient black market to thrive.

Nowhere is that problem more glaring than in Los Angeles, where the number of illegal storefronts rivals legal dispensaries. In what should be the state's most lucrative pot market, many legitimate business operators say they can't compete with the hundreds of stores that are able to sell at a lower price by skirting taxes.

Pot entrepreneurs are running out of patience and money while waiting on L.A. permits
FEB 17, 2019 | 5:00 AM

More than 200 illegal marijuana dispensaries operate in L.A., according to police estimates and a Times review of city records and listings on Weedmaps, a popular online directory for marijuana businesses.

To identify potential scofflaws, The Times compared all storefronts on Weedmaps with a list of businesses granted temporary approval to operate by Los Angeles' Department of Cannabis Regulation. Only 182 marijuana dispensaries have permission to sell weed in the city, records show.

The review, conducted earlier this month, found 365 dispensaries advertised on Weedmaps inside city limits. Of those, more than 220 — 60% of the total — were operating at addresses not on the city's list of legal retailers.

The numbers provide only an estimate of the problem.

Listings on Weedmaps change frequently. Some shops targeted by city enforcement efforts may have shut down since The Times last reviewed the website's listings. But shops that are closed often open under new names, and not every illegal dispensary in the city advertises on the website.

Unregistered dispensaries were running in nearly every corner of Los Angeles, with the highest concentrations downtown and south of the 10 Freeway, The Times analysis found. Twelve can be found on a stretch of Florence Avenue between Crenshaw and Avalon boulevards.

Pot dispensaries in Los Angeles (Ben Welsh and Jon Schleuss / Los Angeles Times)

By mapping the legal and illegal storefronts in the city, The Times found large swaths of downtown and South L.A. are dominated by unlisted dispensaries. Legitimate shops, which can only sell cannabis at locations that meet specific requirements, such as being a certain distance away from a school, are more prevalent in the San Fernando Valley.

Exact statistics on the issue are difficult to find. A representative for the state Bureau of Cannabis Control said the agency did not have readily available data about illegal operators in California, and Los Angeles officials have never made public an exact number of illegal storefronts. The L.A. Police Department, however, has estimated the number of unregistered shops to be "less than 300."

Marijuana advocates say Los Angeles' struggle to curtail illegal activity is more severe than other cities in California, a result of years of allowing marijuana businesses to operate in a quasi-legal status in which they received limited immunity from prosecution.

"This is really a Los Angeles phenomenon ... I can't tell you where there would be an unlicensed dispensary operating in Oakland or San Francisco," said Dale Gieringer, director of California's branch of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Indeed, authorities tasked with overseeing the marijuana industry in San Francisco and Long Beach, said the number of unregulated dispensaries in those cities does not exceed the number of licensed operators.

Owners of legal stores in Los Angeles say illegal shops have a massive competitive advantage, as they offer lower prices by skirting the state's 15% cannabis sales tax as well as the city's 10% rate.

"The frustration for us is twofold," said Carlos de la Torre, who founded the Cornerstone Research Collective in Eagle Rock. "Our businesses are suffering tremendously now because we're having to compete in an unfair playing field, and we've spent all this time and energy and resources crafting something that should be really cut and dry, and it feels like [the city is] not really holding their end of the bargain up."

The proliferation of illegal stores affects marijuana customers, legal owners and government coffers. Aside from undercutting legal operators and curbing tax revenues, city officials are concerned about the health risks posed by stores whose wares are not tested by state regulators.

Some owners contend that many customers don't know the difference between legal and illegal marijuana businesses, and fear they are losing out by complying with state and city tax codes.

"The only bad reviews I get are 'Oh, you're trying to rip us off, these prices are too expensive,'" said Jerrod Kiloh, owner of the Higher Path dispensary in Sherman Oaks and president of the United Cannabis Business Assn. "I think a lot of them don't understand that the cost of doing business has gone up quite a bit."

Many legal owners say the problem is exacerbated by Weedmaps, a Yelp-like service for marijuana businesses.

"Without the voice that Weedmaps gives, 80% of them would disappear," De La Torre said.

Weedmaps did not respond to a request for comment.

Despite business owners' frustrations, the website is something of a double-edged sword: Officials with both the LAPD and the city attorney's office have said they use the online platform to identify targets for enforcement.

Still, council members and legal operators have criticized those agencies in recent months, arguing that a lack of stringent enforcement has allowed unlawful shops to flourish.

After recreational sales became legal in January 2018, obtaining funding and resources for enforcement has become a tougher sell within the LAPD, said Det. Lou Turriaga, a director with the Los Angeles Police Protective League. Until recently, Turriaga said, the department's cannabis support unit was operating on a "bare-bones budget." Local narcotics investigators are unlikely to prioritize enforcement against illicit dispensaries over other kinds of drug crime or violence in their divisions, he said.

The city has signaled it will take cannabis enforcement more seriously this year. Funding has been earmarked for cannabis regulation and a public awareness campaign to help customers learn to spot illegal sellers. **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** 2019 budget pushes \$10 million toward the LAPD for cannabis enforcement. And an ordinance introduced by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez also could result in illegal dispensary owners, and those they rent property from, having to cover the costs of any enforcement efforts enacted at their business.

Despite the large number of illegal businesses still operating in the city, officials contend they have aggressively pursued the issue. Since early 2018, City Atty. Mike Feuer said, his office has brought charges against more than 850 defendants and shut down 114 storefronts — with "many more on the way."

Feuer acknowledged the difficulty in permanently shutting down illegal operators. He said many of the stores his office has pursued have returned under different names, sometimes at the same location. Recently, the agency has begun to target property owners and more aggressively impose financial penalties, in the hopes that massive fines will act as deterrents.

Last month Feuer sued a South L.A. dispensary for selling cannabis that had been treated with a fungicide, which could result in millions in damages against the business.

"This is not just a question of supply, it's also a question of demand," he said. "I want very much for the message to be clear to potential buyers of recreational marijuana that it's just not worth the risk to go to an unpermitted location because they don't test their product and God knows what's in their product."

In March, the City Council passed an ordinance allowing the Department of Water & Power to shut off utilities at prohibited dispensaries. Shutoffs have been conducted at approximately 90 storefronts in the last two months, according to Det. Vito Ceccia of the LAPD's Gang and Narcotics Division. Most of the early efforts were concentrated in the Valley, though recently the department has begun focusing on outlaw operators in South L.A.

Investigators believe the utility shutoffs are more efficient than serving search warrants in pursuit of criminal prosecutions

that will probably result only in misdemeanor charges. On a recent afternoon, utility workers and detectives from the LAPD's Harbor Division cut the power at four illegal shops in less than three hours. Ceccia said they would have been able to execute only one search warrant in the same time frame.

"We see an uptick in these businesses opening up because it's so profitable, especially if they're not paying the taxes they're supposed to be paying," he said. "A majority of them have reopened and that's why we're looking at our partners like DWP to find other resources beyond law enforcement and traditional methods in order to shut these places down."

Police can still seize marijuana and cash from an illegal business if they execute a search warrant in a criminal investigation. But with all criminal penalties for illegal sale or cultivation of marijuana reduced to misdemeanors under Proposition 64, city officials believe civil fines and utility shutdowns are more effective and less labor intensive.

In Los Angeles, Feuer said his office can push for a \$2,500-per-day unfair competition penalty against illegal sellers. Under the voter initiative that established Los Angeles' marijuana market, the city can also seek a \$20,000 daily penalty against illegal operators, though Feuer has rarely used this tactic and said it had yet to be "tested in court."

Many involved in the cannabis industry also have expressed frustration that regulators have been slow to approve dispensary permits — especially those that would fall under a social equity program meant to allow members of communities most affected by criminal marijuana enforcement to get into the legal market.

The city is expected to issue another 250 storefront licenses, which would more than double the number of legal dispensaries in the city, but that process will not begin until September at the earliest, said Sylvia Robledo, public information director for the Department of Cannabis Regulation. The agency expects to be able to issue approximately 400 licenses before it butts up against the city's restrictions against having too many dispensaries concentrated in any particular neighborhood.

The long-term effect of the city's enforcement strategies is unclear.

Although the utility shutdowns have disrupted some operations, many businesses have also simply reopened after obtaining an external generator. The detective who guessed the White Castle dispensary near Wilmington would be back in business in a week was almost right.

An employee confirmed the shop was open when a Times reporter called 10 days later.

Streetsblog LA

This Week In Livable Streets

By Joe Linton

Purple Line subway celebration, South El Monte bike tour, Metro CEO Phil Washington, and more.

- Thursday 5/30 – The Transit Coalition will host CEO Phil Washington speaking on current developments at Metro. The talk will take place from 6-9 p.m. at Metro headquarters third floor Union Station Conference Room at 1 Gateway Plaza, behind Union Station in downtown L.A. Purchase tickets via EventBrite.
- Saturday 6/1 – The city of South El Monte will host a free Community Bike Ride. Ride gathers at 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. departure from the South El Monte Community Center at 1530 Central Avenue. Details at South El Monte webpage or Facebook event.
- Sunday 6/2 – Metro will host a community celebration in honor of the Westside Purple Line subway extension phase 1 project passing 50 percent completion. The celebration will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in lawn area of the La Brea Tar Pits Page Museum at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard in Mid-City. Event will include live entertainment, games, raffles, food trucks, family fun zone and remarks by **Mayor Eric Garcetti** and Metro CEO Phil Washington. Details at Facebook event.
- Next week Tuesday 6/4 – Next week will be the city of Los Angeles council district 12 – northwest San Fernando Valley – special election (also on the wider county ballot is school funding measure EE.) To get involved consider volunteering with Bike the Vote L.A.
- Next week Sunday 6/9 – The L.A. County Bicycle Coalition will host the 19th Annual L.A. River Ride. Participants can choose from various rides touring the L.A. River between Griffith Park and Long Beach. Proceeds benefit the Bicycle Coalition's work to make L.A. vibrant, healthy, and sustainable. Sign-up at the LACBC website.

LA School Report

\$500M annual parcel tax unlikely to pass if low voter turnout trend persists, poll shows

By: Taylor Swaak

L.A. Unified's proposed \$500 million annual parcel tax is unlikely to pass next week if low voter turnout trends continue, a new independent poll finds.

The poll, conducted by Probolsky Research, shows that if June 4's special election sees "high" turnout, or 17 percent of the district's 2.5 million eligible voters, the parcel tax could be on the cusp of meeting the two-thirds majority required to pass. But with a "low" turnout of 8 percent — which falls just below the reported turnout for the recent Board District 5 school board race — the odds decrease.

The Measure EE tax would charge residents within L.A. Unified boundaries 16 cents per square foot of developed property, generating an estimated \$6 billion over 12 years for district schools. The tax's supporters, who include district officials, the teachers union and **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, see Measure EE as a necessary investment in the public schools. L.A. Unified also can't currently afford its \$840 million teachers contract — signed after January's strike — and has to fix its grim budget projections to appease county overseers who have threatened a fiscal takeover.

The tax proposal has attracted a swath of vocal advocates and opponents. Yet there's been scant publicized polling on resident sentiment leading up to the vote, said Adam Probolsky, the polling firm's president. The last poll of likely L.A. voters on a parcel tax was conducted in February on behalf of the district.

"When we see this vacuum, this data void [on] something that so many people really care passionately about ... we really think the public should know about it, see it, be able to digest it," Probolsky said. He noted that the polling was done in the public interest and that the organization, which is nonpartisan and isn't linked to any Measure EE campaigns, did not receive funding for the poll from an outside source.

Probolsky Research conducted the poll on May 16 and May 17 with 400 likely L.A. Unified voters who were identified with "random sampling methodology to ensure that the demographic proportions of survey respondents match the composition" of likely voters, according to the poll's stated methodology. Half of the respondents were interviewed by phone; half took an online survey. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points for results based on the full sample. (Read more about how the poll was conducted [here](#).)

The takeaways

If 17 percent of registered voters in L.A. Unified cast a ballot, 61.8 percent would likely vote "yes" and 32 percent would vote "no," the poll found. But 6 percent were a "firm unsure" — making a "yes" vote attainable if campaigning leading up to the election sways the bulk of undecided voters to approve the measure.

If only 8 percent of voters turn out, polling predicted that the best-case scenario for the parcel tax — if all of the "unsure" voters got on board — would be a 62.5 percent approval rate. This would fail to meet the 66.7 percent threshold.

Source: Probolsky Research

An earlier February poll conducted on the heels of the teacher strike found 72 percent and 69 percent of L.A. Unified residents approved a 16 cent per square foot parcel tax in higher and lower turnout cases, respectively.

Fernando Guerra, a professor and founding director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, which conducts the L.A. Votes exit poll, agrees that turnout is paramount to the tax's success. Special elections typically draw 10 percent or less of eligible voters because they don't line up with regularly scheduled elections.

"Residents and voters are more inclined to support the school district today than any time in the past, so that bodes well," he said, citing an LMU survey. "All it is is about turning out the vote."

Next week's election is likely to attract more voters than a school board race because a parcel tax has "a very direct impact" on individuals, Guerra said. But he added that the parcel tax is still facing "a double degree of difficulty" as a special election.

"There needs to be an incredible effort to inform voters, No. 1 that there's an election happening, and then obviously for the proponents, to inform them of the importance of voting 'yes,'" he said.

Board President Mónica García told LA School Report earlier this month that this was the primary focus of L.A. Unified's information campaign. The district's job "is to make sure that our school community [is] having a conversation about impact, [about] 'Yes' or 'No' on EE," she said. "What is it? What does it mean? How does it impact the world of choices?"

Newly seated school board member Jackie Goldberg has also made Measure EE her main focus since her board win. She promoted it on election night and at her swearing-in ceremony.

There have been impassioned arguments for and against the tax. Some of that energy draws from local exasperation with the low achievement scores plaguing the district. When the poll asked the same people who had weighed in on the parcel tax whether they believe students attending L.A. Unified schools get a high-quality education, 44.3 percent said "no" while

35.8 percent responded “yes.” The remaining 20 percent were unsure or refrained from answering.

Source: Probolsky Research

Many of those who said they are voting “yes” see new taxpayer revenue as instrumental in moving the needle. “Education requires and deserves a lot more support at this point in time,” one potential voter told Probolsky Research.

“It takes money to do everything great,” another Measure EE backer said.

Some of those polled who voted no, however — the vast majority of whom denounced any more taxes in general — said it wasn’t their job to fix the district. “We’re putting out more money than we should be for the education that the kids are getting now,” one respondent said.

“I think L.A. Unified School District is poorly run, poorly managed, and I’m not voting for it,” another stated. This belief mirrors one of the major arguments of the Vote No on EECampaign, which is spearheaded by business and taxpayer organizations who say the district is unaccountable and are demanding reform before further investment in the school system.

Yusef Robb, the campaign manager for Yes on EE, had not seen the poll and declined to comment on its findings. But he emphasized that there’s strong support for the tax.

“LAUSD politics can be quite dramatic and quite divisive, but on Measure EE there is unity amongst all quote-unquote sides for this measure, because it’s not a political statement,” Robb said. “It’s about investing in the basics of our education system.”

The low turnout trend

The latest example of the lower turnout trend in local special elections was the May 14 runoff for school board, where 9.2 percent of Board District 5’s more than 314,000 registered voters cast ballots, according to the county’s election certification on Friday.

Turnout for that race was lower in predominantly minority, lower-income neighborhoods —a general election trend that’s exacerbated by special elections. For example, in the northern part of Board District 5, which is whiter and more affluent, turnout stood at about 10 percent, compared to 4.2 percent in the southern part of the board district, which is almost entirely Latino and lower income, according to initial precinct-by-precinct data.

Across L.A. Unified, at least 4 in 5 students are from low-income families. Nearly three-quarters are Latino.

Suggestions to boost turnout in local elections have included allowing 16-year-olds and undocumented residents to vote in L.A. Unified’s elections and curtailing campaign habits of targeting people who already vote consistently.

There are also steps already being taken. L.A. County in March 2020 will start using “vote centers” instead of neighborhood polling places and offer same-day voter registration. L.A. Unified will line up its elections with even-year primary and general elections next year as well.

Guerra said he believes the most effective way to increase turnout and empower voters is to just never hold special elections — period.

“We need to do a much better job in creating elections that matter and getting rid of the obstacles to participate,” he said. “Having too many elections dilutes that effort.”

Also appeared in: The 74

Fox and Hounds Daily
Mayoral Mismatch
By Joel Kotkin

Mayors have had little success in becoming president, with only one big-city chief executive, Grover Cleveland of Buffalo, later governor of New York, actually making it to the White House. Yet this year’s running of the donkeys includes several: a minor-city chief executive, Pete Buttigieg of South Bend; a former big-city mayor, Cory Booker of Newark; former San Antonio mayor Julian Castro; and John Hickenlooper, formerly chief executive of Denver before becoming Colorado’s governor. They may yet be joined by New York’s Bill de Blasio. Los Angeles mayor **Eric Garcetti** considered a run but thought better of it, perhaps realizing that his city’s burgeoning homeless population and rampant inequality would dog him on the campaign trail. The other mayors’ records are not much better than **Garcetti’s**, but they didn’t hesitate to jump in.

Buttigieg's record is nothing remarkable. South Bend remains plagued by racial tension and a high murder rate. Buttigieg's big challenge, according to Slate's woke take, is whether being gay will make up for the unfortunate reality that he is also white and male, especially given his failure to embrace "the idea of gayness as a cultural framework, formative identity, or anything more than a category of sexual and romantic behavior."

As mayor of Newark, Cory Booker was an improvement over the corrupt Sharpe James, particularly in attracting philanthropic investment, but he left behind the same crime-ridden, impoverished municipality. Castro, as CityLab has noted, operated under a weak-mayor system, and his city's healthy economy owed more to Texas's free-market allure and policies of earlier mayors than to anything that he accomplished. Hickenlooper, a rare species of pragmatic Democrat, was arguably more successful than the others, but his greatest accomplishment, the expansion of Denver's troubled transit system, has become plagued by overruns and declining ridership. In any case, Hickenlooper, the most attractive of the mayoral brood, has made no impression in the polls and seems destined to finish out the race on the sidelines.

As for the ethically challenged de Blasio, he inherited a strong economy, now adjusting down to the national average—which, to be fair, is a lot better than Los Angeles and Chicago, which rank well behind in job creation.

So why mayors for president? A popular notion says that mayors are uniquely positioned to "rule the world," as political theorist Benjamin Barber put it. City boosters like Parag Khannasee mayors as running the vital and creative parts of the world, and thus as the natural leaders of the future. But much of this thinking misses an important qualification concerning population. Reporters frequently see big-city mayors as representatives of the vast, economically dominant metropolitan areas. But in nearly every American major metro, including even New York, the population of the core municipality is topped by that of the metro periphery. In New York, de Blasio presides over less than 45 percent of the metro-area population; in some cities, like Atlanta and Miami, the mayor governs less than one in ten regional residents. On average, little more than one-quarter of major metropolitan area residents live in the core municipalities, many in neighborhoods little different than the suburbs around them.

Contrary to what you might hear in the mainstream press, Americans are not flocking to core cities. Big-city mayors are, in relative terms, losing constituents. Last year, the counties containing America's three largest cities—New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago—all lost population. Since 2010, a net 1.8 million people have moved away from the urban core counties of major metropolitan areas, largely to lower-density counties. As they start owning property, getting married, and having children, millennials are driving this trend. Since 2010, 80 percent of millennial population growth has been in the suburbs, where single-family houses predominate. New York City now suffers the largest net annual outmigration of post-college millennials (ages 25 to 34) of any metro area—some 38,000 annually—followed by Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Diego. New York's losses are 75 percent higher than during the previous five-year period.

The view that dense core cities will dominate the future is misplaced. It's the metropolitan areas—from the core to the far periphery—that really matter. In some cases, notably New York, the cores remain the most pivotal places in the metro areas, but Gotham is an exception to an increasingly multipolar urban landscape. For most mayors, prosperity relies on their relationship with the periphery; cities without viable suburbs and beyond will find themselves unable to hold onto employees as they age.

A common argument for the central importance of mayors is economic. In some industries—social media, high finance, communications, and tourism—a few big cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco, have achieved considerable dominance. But, since 2010, more than 80 percent of metropolitan job growth, particularly that which employs middle-class workers, has taken place in the suburbs. This is not a matter of low-income jobs concentrating on the periphery. In reality, lower-density areas account for the vast majority of new patents, a key indicator of competitive economic innovation. Since 1970, according to a recent Harvard study, suburbs have outperformed their urban counterparts in terms of jobs, income, and educational achievement; despite the urban "boom" earlier this century, the pattern remained very much the same since 2000.

Cities and suburbs play different roles in the innovation economy. Core cities excel at innovation detached from the physical world, but tech companies that actually make things or apply innovation to the physical world are moving to suburban areas, such as north Dallas—home to several former California companies, including McKesson and Toyota America—or, in Apple's case, to suburban Williamson County, outside Austin. They need the space and the access to mature talent that gravitates to suburban neighborhoods.

The employment patterns of large cities—dependent on high-wage, high-education-dependent sectors—also tend to accentuate the inequality that progressive mayors complain so much about. Indeed, according to Pew, the largest gaps between the bottom and top quintiles are found in the most progressive metropolitan areas: San Francisco, New York, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Boston are the five least-equal cities in America. In all these "superstar" cities, the middle-class family is rapidly disappearing, even as poverty remains stubbornly high. Teachers, firemen, and police officers struggle to afford homes in many American cities, according to a study from Trulia. This pricing-out also applies to many skilled blue-collar professions like technicians, construction workers, and mechanics. In California, according to a recent

study, not one union construction worker could afford a median-priced house in Los Angeles, San Francisco, or surrounding areas.

Yo! Venice

MTA Bridge Housing Operator Chosen, Injunction Denied

By Sam Catanzaro

A homeless shelter in the heart of Venice will open this summer and be operated by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), Councilmember Mike Bonin recently announced.

On May 16, the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority selected PATH along with Safe Place for Youth (SPY) to manage and operate the bridge housing facility set to open in Venice this summer.

PATH, one of the nation's most successful and respected homeless service providers, will be the lead operator of the site and will work with the Venice-based SPY, which will also provide services at the temporary facility, which will provide 100 beds for adults and 54 beds for youth.

"I am thrilled to be moving forward with such an excellent team," said Councilmember Mike Bonin. "PATH and SPY are highly regarded service providers with a history of success, years of experience in the community, and a great track record of working with neighbors. I am confident they will make Bridge Home Venice a success."

The 154-bed homeless shelter, part of Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** A Bridge Home program, will be located on the 3.15-acre lot that takes up an entire block between Pacific Avenue and Main Street south of Sunset Avenue. In this program, Mayor **Garcetti** asked every Councilmember to look at encampments in their district and to find locations for bridge housing.

MTA closed the lot in 2015 after receiving multiple offers from developers interested in the site. The property can be used for housing for the next three years, however, because there is no deal in place.

The project has not been without controversy. Opponents have raised issue with the shelter's location, worrying that the site will disrupt the mostly residential neighborhood. In addition, there has been concern raised about the housing being within a 1,000-foot radius of Westminster Elementary School.

Less than a week before PATH and SPY were announced as the operators for the facility, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge denied an injunction that would have halted construction the homeless shelter.

On May 10, Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff said that the City of Los Angeles could proceed with the construction of the 154-bed homeless shelter.

The judge noted that objections expressed by neighbors, namely that the shelter would disrupt a residential neighborhood, were understandable, but agreed with the city's claim that not building the shelter would provide greater harm to residents now living on sidewalks.

Councilmember Mike Bonin applauded the decision saying "I am enormously grateful for this decision, which allows us to move forward. No one deserves to live on a sidewalk, and no one deserves to have encampments in their neighborhoods."

PATH, which practices the nationally-recognized Housing First approach, operates three other bridge housing locations in Los Angeles. The organization, started on the Westside in the 1980s, provides short-term and permanent housing, case management, medical and mental healthcare, benefits advocacy, employment training, and other services. Since 2013, PATH has connected more than 8,500 people to permanent homes.

"Bridge housing is an important first step in the process of moving our most vulnerable into permanent supportive housing," said Jennifer Hark-Dietz, Deputy CEO of PATH. "Venice Bridge Home is a sign of progress and it is of the utmost importance that elected officials, landlords, the nonprofit sector and neighborhood leaders continue to work together to find and build housing for those in need."

SPY, founded in 2011 in Venice, serves homeless youth, ages 12-25. The group provides transitional housing, street outreach, drop-in services, case management, health and wellness, education and employment programs.

"Having access to Bridge Housing is critical when working on providing stability to youth experiencing homelessness," said Alison Hurst, Executive Director of Safe Place for Youth. "An alternative to the streets will give young people the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive living environment, while we work with them on long term solutions for their homeless crisis."

Both agencies have experience in the community. Several years ago, PATH helped house more than 100 people who were living in their vehicles in Venice and recently partnered with Los Angeles World Airports to serve and successfully house people living in large encampments near LAX. The organization operates transitional housing in West LA and provides permanent supportive housing at a building in Del Rey. SPY launched in Venice, focuses its services there, and has its headquarters and drop-in center there. SPY also jointly operates bridge housing for youth at locations in Mar Vista and Westwood.

The City of Los Angeles has opened 4 bridge housing facilities, has approved 12 others, and is evaluating 10 other locations. A second bridge housing site in Bonin's council district — 100 beds for homeless veterans — is under construction in Brentwood on the VA campus.

Bridge Home Venice, located on a Metro-owned former bus yard on Main Street, near some of Venice's largest encampments, will open in late summer. Construction will begin on the site in a few weeks.

HR Technologist

The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation Partners with Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology to pilot WorkforceReady

By Mayuri Chaudhary

The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed by learning and human capital management software provider Cornerstone OnDemand (CSOD), has announced a new partnership with the Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology. The Center, a division of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce non-profit organization, is dedicated to connecting underserved talent to opportunity through entrepreneurship and workforce development. Working with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, Bixel Exchange will pilot WorkforceReady, a free online learning program designed to help job seekers build the foundational skills required to be successful in today's work environment.

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs report, "human" skills like collaboration, initiative, and critical thinking are becoming increasingly important in the modern workforce. But many of today's job seekers aren't receiving training for the non-technical skills that are necessary to both find and keep a job. Skills including job interview preparation, networking, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking are particularly lacking in workers who have been disconnected from the workforce or who are entering the job market for the first time.

HR Technology News: Absorb Software Announces Acquisition of Torch LMS

WorkforceReady will help bridge the learning gap of the new workforce. This program will offer short, online courses for students to develop these essential non-technical skills. The program leverages Cornerstone's 20 years of expertise in learning technology and people development and will help participants across industries become job-ready.

In collaboration with Bixel Exchange, WorkforceReady will launch a pilot program this summer with students participating in Bixel Exchange's L.A. Tech Talent Pipeline program. The L.A. Tech Talent Pipeline, a partnership with L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, connects low-income, diverse students to careers in the technology and creative economy sectors. WorkforceReady will provide free, online courses designed to ensure these students are prepared for opportunities with Bixel Exchange's participating companies.

This partnership with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation will ensure the students entering the program will have the requisite skills to transition and contribute to their new workplace. The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation plans to add more organizations to the pilot program in the coming months.

"One of the most successful ways to place someone in a job and increase job retention is through the full spectrum of professional training," says Julie Brandt, executive director, the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation. "We're excited about the opportunity for WorkforceReady to make this training accessible to a wider audience."

"Talent is equally distributed. Opportunity is not. Our mission is to connect talent to opportunity," said Sean Arian, president, and co-founder of Bixel Exchange. "WorkforceReady will allow us to better prepare students for the dynamic job market, and ultimately create more career pathways for students in the LA area."

Liberation News

The struggle is in the streets: LA's ruling class attacks the houseless

By Katerina Moore

Planters filled with succulents and cacti, sidewalk art installations, narrow benches with armrests. These decorative accents are seen in cities across the United States, but we should not be fooled by their ornamental facade. They're examples of a phenomenon known as "hostile architecture" — the component pieces of our built environment carefully designed to ward off unwanted occupants — and, according to emails obtained through the California Public Records Act, part of a calculated effort by the City of Los Angeles and its ruling class to further displace people experiencing

homelessness. According to the latest 2019 homeless count in Los Angeles County, this population now consists of over 50,000 people.

Although houseless people face hostility and humiliation anywhere they are forced to stay, Los Angeles has doubled down on its campaign of hostility in the wake of a homelessness crisis that has reached epidemic proportions. In a disturbing chain of emails published by MichaelKohlhaas.org, a blog by investigative journalists exposing local treatment of the homeless population, city officials and local business owners brainstormed ways to drive out residents without permanent shelter.

"Is there an update on how we can stop the encampment being provided with fresh, untouched food?" asked Rebecca Vasak of JAHZ Properties. After a long email chain and several closed door meetings with law enforcement representatives, the group agreed to collectively cover sidewalks with unauthorized planters and community art under the guise of "beautification," forcing people experiencing homelessness to move their tents elsewhere.

Adrian Riskin, a writer for MichaelKohlhaas.org, spoke to Liberation News about the war being waged on houseless Angelenos. Riskin explained that although the creation of hostile environments is a tactic with a long history in LA, the problem goes much deeper than illegal sidewalk planters. "An environment can be made hostile towards the homeless by privatizing it," he said. Special Enforcement Zones, for example, are areas in which the LAPD practices what Riskin describes as "hyper-enforcement of anti-homeless laws," ostensibly in protection of the needs of local businesses.

Nowhere is the influence of private interest on public space more aggressive than in Hollywood's Business Improvement District, where private security guards – collectively funded by local businesses – collaborate with the LAPD to arrest houseless people at rates unseen in the rest of the city. Although fewer than 300 residents experiencing homelessness live within the district at any given time, the number of arrests made by BID patrols exceeded 1,000 per year in recent years.

That number has dropped (largely due to scrutiny from MichaelKohlhaas.org, according to public records), but the criminalization of homelessness continues in the Hollywood BID and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, private security employees outnumber LAPD officers in the Los Angeles area by over seven to one, comprising unaccountable private armies mobilized by the rich to defend their property.

Los Angeles City Council has passed a multitude of laws that are unmistakably meant to punish unsheltered people. Sitting or lying on the sidewalk is prohibited, and "bulky items" can't be stored on the sidewalk (except tents, but they must be taken down between the hours of 6 am-9 pm). Urinating in public is illegal, even if there are no public restrooms nearby. The LA City Council additionally voted recently to extend harsh restrictions on sleeping in cars – restrictions which activists say are tantamount to a ban. Although these ordinances can also affect people with reliable shelter, Riskin says the discretionary basis on which the LAPD and BID security guards enforce them show clearly that their primary purpose is to push people experiencing homelessness out of areas where powerful people don't want them to be visible.

As senior LAPD officer Eddie Guerra said in the email chain about sidewalk planters: "We are in the displacement business." Business, clearly, is booming. Los Angeles was home to an estimated 52,765 houseless people in 2018 – including roughly 5,000 children, 4,000 veterans, 5,000 elderly people, and 3,000 people fleeing domestic violence. Over 25 percent of Angelenos experiencing homelessness have a serious mental illness, and another 15 percent battles a substance use disorder. Even though LA **Mayor Eric Garcetti** anticipates a "double-digit increase" this year, the city's response to the crisis continues to be ineffectual at best, with unfulfilled promises to build fifteen temporary shelters that would house a tiny fraction of those who need shelter.

The failure to support the tens of thousands of Angelenos experiencing homelessness isn't, as **Garcetti** claims, due to a lack of resources – in Los Angeles, an economic hub of the most prosperous state in the country, the failure is due entirely to a lack of political will. Studies show that providing permanent supportive housing for those who are chronically houseless actually saves money. The only reason we lack the resources to sufficiently address homelessness is because those resources are being boarded and used elsewhere—such as the construction of a \$2.2 billion luxury office building for city employees.

It would be foolish to expect local government to solve the crisis in any meaningful way, because the "displacement business" is an excellent investment. The wealthy elite need to blame homelessness on those experiencing it. Surely their circumstances are the result of poor decisions, laziness, some fundamental flaw in their very being. We need to keep them off the sidewalks—in fact, get them out of the city. We don't want to look at them.

And here lies the crux of the matter. If people experiencing homelessness weren't made invisible, we would be forced to confront the crisis directly – and that would mean confronting the system that not only allows homelessness to exist, but necessarily preserves its existence.

Under capitalism, our basic necessities – food, housing, healthcare, work – aren't guaranteed. Edible food is destroyed to artificially inflate prices while children go hungry. National homelessness statistics tell us that an estimated 55.3 million

people sleep in the streets each night, while nearly 6 million housing units sit vacant. The exorbitant price of healthcare causes people to die of preventable illnesses every day.

Anyone taking a cursory look at the immense wealth that already exists in this country will see that we have more than what is needed to fulfill the material needs of society. With a rationally planned socialist economy, we can harness our full productive capacity to guarantee housing, food, healthcare, and employment to every person in the United States. This is the task ahead of the U.S. working class—we must organize and fight, because changing the streets of the United States can change the streets of the world.

The Bulwark

The Democratic Debates Are Going To Be a Clownshow

by MOLLY JONG-FAST

Debate me, you coward! You, too! And you and you and you and you and you!

We're a month from the first tranche of Democratic debates in Miami. Florida has not been good to the Democratic party, but I'm sure this time will be different. Besides the obvious appeal of alligators and meth, there's nothing quite as delicious as summer in the tropics.

And it's hard not to notice the very obvious differences from the last primary cycle. For one thing, instead of a race between two people and the guy who was a character on *The Wire*, we have binders full of candidates.

How many? As of this writing, we have 23 declared candidates—and that's after a whole slew of kind-of, sort-of pols tiptoed up to the water's edge before pulling back. You might think 23 is a lot—it's probably 15 too many, to be honest—but we could easily have been at 28 if Stacey Abrams, Sherrod Brown, Mike Bloomberg, **Eric Garcetti**, and Deval Patrick had run. And all of them took good, hard looks at the race.

This bumper crop of candidates is going to require that the Democratic National Committee do things a little differently. This time, they're not with her, or him, or anyone, and this time they're not going to let their emails get hacked by the Ruskies and released by the albino rapist who lives in the cupboard under the stairs. No sirree. They're going to things totally differently this time.

And the first step is presenting all of these luscious candidates to voters in the best, most logical manner possible. So the DNC is bending over backward to create the most fair, inclusive, respectful, diverse, and enormous debate stage ever. The DNC will not have a kids' table, unlike the GOP's 2016 debate.

It's to the DNC's credit that they have been incredibly transparent about how to get into the debates. And it's actually pretty easy. Maybe even too easy. Okay, real talk: It's definitely too easy. For example if you have a full Subway rewards card, you can choose a spot in the debates or a free sub. As of right now there are approximately one trillion people qualified to be in the debates, including a small-town Midwestern mayor, the congresswoman from Hawaii, and a retired tech guy. Because God is just, wise, and hilarious, the mayor of New York City (and noted groundhog slayer) has not yet qualified.

But the truth is, there really are going to be way too many candidates onstage to make the debates anything other than a clusterfuck of clusterfuckery. Right now, you can qualify for the debate by either having 65,000 people to donate to you, or by polling over 1 percent in three DNC-approved polls. But all of that may change, and in fact it has! As I was working on this piece the DNC announced a new rule change in which candidates polling over 2 percent will be randomly allocated between the two debates, so as to prevent from having a kids' table.

I know what you're thinking: Wait a minute. Most polls have a margin of error around +/-4 points. Which means that any candidate polling under 4 percent is basically within the margin of error and that pretending that there's any meaningful statistical difference between a candidate at 1 percent and a candidate at 2 percent is kind of mathematically illiterate.

But wait, there's more: The DNC also decided that the total participation will be capped at 20. Which means that three of the major ("major"?) candidates won't be invited.

And here's where it gets positively bananas: The Hill says that 19 people have already qualified. The pointy-heads at FiveThirtyEight figures that the real number is 20. (Even people who do this for a living can't keep it all perfectly straight.) But everyone agrees that one of the people sure to be onstage will be Marianne Williamson. Whom you may remember from her role as officiant at Elizabeth Taylor's wedding. Or as besties with Oprah. Or from being a spiritual advisor to Cher. (Reminder: Bill de Blasio, the current mayor of New York City, will not make the debates. But Marianne Williamson will. Just sit with that for a moment.)

So, what happens now? Well, if anyone else qualifies, then the DNC will put into effect its hastily drawn-up tiebreak rules.

Here's FiveThirtyEight trying valiantly to explain them:

If more than 20 candidates qualify under the first set of debate rules, then meeting both the polling and donor requirements will become very important—candidates who do so will get first dibs on debate lecterns. After that, though, things start to get complicated.

If more than 20 candidates hit both the polling and donor thresholds, the 20 candidates with the highest polling average would be included in the debate. . . .

If fewer than 20 candidates meet both standards but more than 20 qualify via the polling method, those who meet both criteria would qualify first and the remaining spots would be filled by those with the highest polling average. To calculate this, the DNC is planning to average the top three survey results for each candidate, rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. That is, the tiebreaker will be calculated using the polls where a candidate performed best, not necessarily the most recent polls. If that average results in a tie for the last spot(s) on the stage, the tied candidates will be ranked by the total number of qualifying polls they submitted to the DNC.

However, if fewer than 20 candidates hit both qualifying criteria and fewer than 20 qualify via the polling method, the DNC and its media partners (NBC and Telemundo in June and CNN in July) would first invite all candidates who reach both the polling and donor thresholds and then any others who meet the polling requirement. After that, the remaining debate slots would be filled by those who have the highest number of unique donors.

Seems simple enough. I'm sure Democrats across this great land of ours will see the wisdom and fairness in DNC chairman Tom Perez' plan.

Or, as a consultant for one of the Democratic campaigns put it, "Tom Perez is such a goddamned weenie."

In fairness to Perez, being chairman of the DNC right now might be the worst job in America. Because realistically speaking, what is he supposed to do with these debates?

It's easy to say that Mike Gravel shouldn't be on the debate stage, because he's 89, he's a former senator from Alaska, he's not doing events, and his "campaign" is basically a stalking horse for a bunch of really adorable anti-war teenagers.

And it's easy to say that the big five—Biden, Bernie, Mayor Pete, Elizabeth Warren, and Kamala Harris—should be in.

And it's comparatively easy to say that the next tier of serious candidates with actual campaigns—Cory Booker and Beto—should be there.

After that? If the rest of the field was comprised of just Hickenlooper, Gillibrand, and Inslee, you'd just say, Fine. Come on in.

But it's not just those three. It's those three plus thirteen other people. All of whom pretty much live in the same tiny sliver within the margin of error.

And because the Democratic National Committee is killing itself to show maximum transparency, it doesn't want to be seen as thumbing the scales against Mean Amy or the Groundhog Slayer or Mr. Clean.

And look, maybe the DNC is right not to. Maybe the insane 17-level tiebreaker system won't actually matter because no one down at that end of the spectrum is going to end up as the nominee, anyway.

But on the other hand, as Chris Christie showed, a skilled, motivated loser is perfectly capable of mortally wounding a real contender on a debate stage.

At some point, Perez might have to start thinking less about hurting the feelings of the people who aren't going to be his party's nominee, and more about advancing the prospects of the people who might be.

Grit Daily

THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM LA: FASHION

By Noah Staum

Los Angeles restated its commitment to being a sustainability leader last month with **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** announcement of LA's Green New Deal.

Meanwhile, local brands are quietly making progress in one of the largest polluting industries in the world: fashion.

As a fashion mecca, the culture and leadership of LA's fashion designers and boutiques are important influencers.

However, the fashion industry has many long-rooted unsustainable practices that continue to drain the earth of premium resources and add to its pollution problem.

Most significantly, Global Fashion Agenda predicts that the industry's water consumption will grow 150 percent to 31.7 trillion gallons per year by 2030 and its carbon waste will balloon to 148 million tons.

The overarching problem is complex and deeply rooted in existing production, sourcing, and purchasing patterns. Since the fashion industry is one of the largest in the world, it also has one of the longest supply chains, generating more pollutants and waste. Many industry leaders question the viability of a large-scale sustainable fashion enterprise in the context of the success and popularity of the fast fashion industry (Zara, H&M, Forever21, and the like).

In response, several fashion brands have emerged in LA with a focus on sustainability. They aim to become leaders in changing the fashion industry's longstanding practices.

GALERIE.LA

Celebrity stylist Dechel Mckillian created GALERIE.LA in 2015 to curate brands that create "fashion with integrity."

Mckillian has used her clout from working with the likes of Drake, Nicki Minaj, the Black Eyed Peas, and more to bring an focus on sustainable fashion into the overall industry without sacrificing style and design. Around 40 percent of the products she carries are sourced from LA.

CHRISTY DAWN

Christy Dawn is one of the most well known LA sustainable fashion brands on Instagram. Not only does the brand — the namesake of its creator — exemplify the essence of LA fashion, it is also completely transparent about its sourcing, design, and production processes. Because they use a local supply chain, it's easy to follow. All of their pieces are made in LA from deadstock fabric (surplus or incorrect fabrics from other brands that couldn't be used).

"Textile production and printing requires the use of hundreds of toxic chemicals. We couldn't in good faith create our own fabrics knowing that we'd be adding to an already alarming environmental problem. We all have a responsibility to ask 'How can we minimize our impact on the environment?'" Dawn said in an interview with Forbes last year.

REFORMATION

Similar to Christy Dawn, Reformation uses deadstock fabric and recycled fabrics to produce all of their pieces. The brand puts "sustainability at the core of everything," which is why they publish annual sustainability reports for the public to see. The reports include their carbon footprint and progress the business has made to improve sustainability from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE APPAREL

The name of this quaint looking shop in Venice says it all. Alternative Apparel offers more universal sustainable fashion for men, women, and children. They focus on producing comfortable, casual fashion basics like t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jeans — anything that's a staple of your wardrobe. To minimize their waste packaging waste, they use biodegradable mailers for their online shop. The practice also reduces water use and minimizes CO2 waste.

LACAUSA

Lacausa puts their money where their mouth is when it comes to sustainability and support the local LA community. After all, "La Causa" is Spanish for "the cause." In addition to practicing sustainable production right in LA, Lacausa donates a portion of all their sales to various charities. Rebecca Grenell started the brand in 2013.

"We're very serious about working with fair factories and vendors," Grenell said to Racked.



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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

LA Daily News

Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised \$2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving \$1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sin

of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.

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SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

1 message

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Sun, Jul 29, 2018 at 6:59 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA TIMES: Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?

POLITICO: California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race

ADVOCATE: No Charges Against Political Donor Accused of Drugging Man to Death

DAILY BREEZE: Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women

CBS LOS ANGELES: Political Expert Weighs In On U.S. Debt, Cohen Tapes, Mayor Garcetti (LINK ONLY)

LA Times

Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?

By: Steve Lopez

Is he or isn't he?

That's the question for L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**.

Is he running for president of the United States, as has been speculated for months, or not?

If so, and it comes down to Trump or Garcetti, I'm with Garcetti.

Then again, if it comes down to Trump or a fig tree, I like figs.

But don't you have to have your own house in order before you consider trading up? Given the current state of Los Angeles, which has become the nation's largest tent city, it's not as if Garcetti could put himself out there on a "mission accomplished" victory tour.

It's hard to say, though, whether Garcetti is going to run, because he doesn't seem to be entirely clear on the matter. He claims he isn't focused on life after City Hall, despite trips to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, three early-voting states you do not fly to just to sample the ice cream.

"I'm not interested in my next job," Garcetti told me Friday by phone, speaking from Hanoi in Vietnam. He's on a 10-day Asian tour, drumming up business and tourism for Los Angeles.

But then he said something that made it sound as though he's going through a bit of a Walter Mitty phase. James Thurber's character imagined himself as a fighter pilot or surgeon, and I'm willing to bet Garcetti has imagined what it would be like to wake up in the White House.

"I'm concerned about this country, period. I think all of us should be. This is the worst moment I've lived in in my lifetime," he said, killing any chance he might have had to get invited to Mar a Lago.

Garcetti listed, among his many concerns, climate change, civil rights and America's stature abroad.

"There are a couple of things missing in this country: kindness, moral leadership, and people who deliver, who don't invent problems they can't solve, but look at real problems and address them. Potholes, infrastructure, making college free, [raising] the minimum wage," Garcetti said.

Also missing, by the way, are the records on what it costs taxpayers for Garcetti's security detail to travel with him. The LAPD has refused to say, Garcetti has deferred to the police, and the L.A. Times has filed a lawsuit, which I'll get to in a minute.

First, let's talk politics.

No one has ever gone directly from any City Hall to the White House, and you would have better odds playing the lottery than betting on Garcetti to break the spell.

But who knows?

If a barking braggart can insult women for their looks, make fun of a disabled guy, set race relations back 50 years, lie pathologically, boast about grabbing women by their crotches, tell working stiffs he's too smart to pay taxes, insist the first black president was from Africa and still become president, a reasonably intelligent Chihuahua could get elected, and no one can be ruled out.

"Garcetti has as much of a chance as Trump did two years before the 2016 election, and as much as Obama had two years before 2008," said Fernando Guerra, director of Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Even then, how would Garcetti beat Trump, whose happy hordes think he's the lord and redeemer?

A third-party candidate like Ohio Gov. John Kasich draws Republican votes from Trump and the Democrat slips through the back door of the White House, Guerra theorized.

The problem is that Garcetti is so far down the list of potential Democratic nominees, he's almost invisible. Even among Californians, you'd have to rank him behind U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, if not U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff.

And then you've got Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders and former Vice President Joe Biden at the top of the list, each of them miles ahead of Garcetti in terms of name recognition and access to money.

A lot of political insiders guess Garcetti is more interested in branding himself as a contender so he gets consideration for a Cabinet post if a Democrat beats Trump, or because it might help in a run to replace California Sen. Dianne Feinstein when she retires.

But let's say against all odds, Garcetti emerges as a true contender. He's young, he's Mexican-Italian-Jewish, he speaks Spanish, he talks a good game on tech and transit and the future of cities, he's green, he's a sharp public speaker.

What happens then?

A TV ad runs. One minute, maybe, although 30 seconds could do the trick. You see homeless encampments everywhere, hellish traffic and caravans of people leaving town for affordable housing in Nevada. The narrator, in one of those dreadful tones you hear only in political ads, ticks off the sad litany of budget deficits, soaring DWP rates and record payouts for police misconduct and dangerous roads, with decrepit, rupturing sewer lines and sinkholes big enough to swallow vehicles.

Goodbye, White House.

You can't put all of that on Garcetti. But he's been at City Hall for 17 years. His record is mixed, with a nice little list of triumphs if not a great history of political courage. But if you haven't heard, they play dirty in politics, and in a dogfight, Los Angeles will be made to resemble a Garcetti hellhole, to borrow a phrase from Le Grande Orange.

Look, I don't have a problem with Garcetti traveling all over the place on city business. L.A. is an international city and he ought to be out and about, cheerleading and cutting deals.

And I don't have a problem with him running for president, if that's what he's doing.

But when he's on the road for his own pursuits rather than ours, we shouldn't have to pay for it.

Times reporter Dakota Smith reported last September that Garcetti had spent roughly one-third of the previous 12 months out of town. (Garcetti told me Friday morning he disputes the numbers, arguing that he was in town for parts of the days in which he was marked absent.)

Smith reported that Garcetti was out of California for campaign or political events for 17 days. In addition, of his 112 days out of town, 62 were listed as vacation time or no explanation was provided.

So far this year, Garcetti told me, he's been away only five days on what he would call political ventures.

The Times argued in its lawsuit that city officials are violating the California Public Records Act and the California Constitution in refusing to turn over the records. But the Los Angeles Police Department argues that the details could compromise the mayor's safety, and Garcetti has taken its side.

"To be clear, I pay my own costs," Garcetti told me about travel that is not related to city business.

He said he once told his father, the former district attorney, that he'd rather not have security with him. He said his father told him:

"This isn't for you. This is for your family."

The mayor added:

"I'm not going to go into details about the sorts of threats I get."

OK, fine.

But Garcetti and the police could tell us what the security costs are — airfare, lodging and vehicle rental — without giving up any details that would compromise his security.

Or better yet, when Garcetti is on personal pursuits, he should pay the security costs out of his own campaign funds or his own pocket.

That could only help with his presidential bid.

Politico

California housing crisis collides with 2020 presidential race

By: Jeremy B. White

SAN FRANCISCO — If there's a point of universal agreement in California politics, it's that the state's housing crisis has spiraled to urgent proportions.

But a ballot initiative designed to tackle the prohibitive cost of housing stands to fracture Democrats here, pitting some of the state's top elected officials against each other and placing some of the party's most influential donors and interest groups at odds.

It's a conflict that resonates beyond California's borders as more and more major cities struggle to do something about the skyrocketing cost of finding a place to live. And the issue is likely to surface in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries since it afflicts some of the biggest and most influential blue states, ranging from California to Illinois to New York.

Already, the initiative has split two prominent California politicians with national aspirations and bases in the urban hubs where the housing crunch is particularly acute: Los Angeles mayor and potential presidential contender **Eric Garcetti** supports the measure, saying it would restore needed local authority to address the crisis. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has embraced an aggressive housing agenda as the frontrunner to be the state's next governor, does not.

The problem may be more acute in California, where soaring rents and a dearth of affordable homes — both of which are helping to drive one of the nation's worst homelessness epidemics — have pushed housing to the top of the agenda.

The issue has already reverberated all the way to Congress, where California Sen Kamala Harris — herself a top 2020 Democratic prospect — earlier this month unveiled a bill to offer tax credits to renters, saying "America's affordable housing crisis has left too many families behind."

In California this fall, voters will be weighing in on a ballot initiative that seeks to hold down rising costs by repealing a 25-year-old state law, the Costa-Hawkins act, that sharply restricts cities' ability to impose rent control.

Enacted with the real estate lobby's support after over a dozen cities had expanded rent control, the law barred those protections from applying to condominiums, single-family homes and new housing. That froze rent control in major cities: it's limited to properties built before October 1978 in Los Angeles and before June 1979 in San Francisco.

"Getting rid of these protections overall, I think, may have unintended consequences on housing production that could be profoundly problematic," Newsom said at a candidate forum earlier this year.

For much of the Democratic base, Proposition 10 offers an obvious antidote to a ubiquitous problem: limiting how much landlords can jack up the rent, supporters say, will make the state more affordable and allay accelerating displacement. The California Democratic Party overwhelmingly voted to support Proposition 10 this month amid chants of "the rent is too damn high."

"No one should have to make a decision between paying rent and buying food or healthcare. It's shocking to me that there is even a debate about rent control at this point," said Susie Shannon, a party activist who spearheaded the convention push.

"An awful lot of people think that rent control's part of the answer to our affordable housing problem," state party chair Eric Bauman said. "Amongst the activist group, the vast majority see this as a panacea."

But that stance is running up against warnings from the housing industry that passage of the ballot measure will shrivel the already-scarce supply of rental units and discourage new building, halting recent political momentum on a possible solution. It's an argument that powerful interest groups — including apartment owners, developers, realtors and construction industry unions, all of whom wield significant clout in Sacramento and have contributed heavily to Democrats — are spending millions to amplify.

"Doing away with Costa-Hawkins will limit construction — developers aren't going to want to develop, owners aren't going to want to build if it doesn't make their projects pencil out," said Ron Miller, executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. "The way to get the prices down is supply and demand. We need to keep building."

Research on the effects of rent control is decidedly mixed. California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office found a consensus that the policy keeps people in rent-controlled units but incentivizes landlords to convert rentals into condominiums or other units intended for ownership; it's less conclusive whether rent control stymies new construction and increases rents for non-rent-controlled units.

Opponents of Prop 10 have circulated a recent Stanford University study that concluded San Francisco's rent control laws fueled gentrification, reducing the citywide housing supply and driving up average rents. Rent control advocates say the study proves the policy works, noting that it found people in rent-controlled units paid billions less and were more likely to remain.

The research may be disputed, but the battle lines are becoming clear. Outside of the building unions, labor has been unified in support, with powerhouse groups like the California Teachers Association arguing that housing represents an existential issue for their working-and-middle-class members.

"We're facing a severe teacher shortage in California and one of the main issues is affordable housing - for teachers being able to live in the communities where they teach," said Eric Heins, president of the CTA. "When I lived in San Francisco the only way I was able to afford to live there was with a rent-controlled apartment."

That political landscape, backers of Proposition 10 say, sets up a stark choice for voters: "whether they want to side with the real estate industry on this or with a broad range of community groups," said Dean Preston of Tenants Together, who argued the idea has gained momentum as the housing crisis has worsened.

The sense of urgency was on display earlier this year in Sacramento, when lawmakers took up a bill to repeal Costa-Hawkins. It died after a contentious hearing that saw hours of emotional testimony, with people jamming the hearing room and lining up down the hallway.

"It is, in my opinion, a conversation we can no longer avoid, and it presents an issue that is crying out for relief," said Assemblyman Richard Bloom, the measure's backer, warning that the years-long construction process means new housing "will be too late for too many Californians."

In the preceding months, lawmakers in Sacramento had debated bills that sought to expedite construction in part by limiting the tools cities and counties have to block development. A measure that would have overridden local zoning rules for construction near public transit drew national attention earlier this year as a potential model for other states struggling with exorbitant housing costs — and while the measure failed, the idea is certain to resurface.

Opponents of Prop 10 warn that the measure's passage would halt progress toward more construction, pushing developers into wait-and-see mode.

"I think that should Prop 10 pass, then all of the efforts to try and expedite or make it easier for the development of housing, particularly affordable housing, I think you can for all intents and purposes take a breath for 5 years," said Tom Bannon, CEO of the California Apartment Association.

That leaves California voters with a momentous decision to make. Kevin Reikes, who is not working on the Proposition 10 campaign but has in the past conducted polling for apartment owner and realtor groups, predicted voters would jump at a chance to change the status quo on housing.

"People want to be able to do something," he said, "and this will be a vehicle for the voters to do something."

The Advocate

No Charges Against Political Donor Accused of Drugging Man to Death

By: Ariel Sobel

Despite calls from the black and gay communities, prosecutors have declined to file charges against Democratic donor Ed Buck in connection with the fatal overdose of a 26-year-old sex worker in his West Hollywood home.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office issued a document Thursday that stated "admissible evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt" that Buck was responsible for the death of Gemmel Moore in July 2017, the Los Angeles Times reports.

Buck is a longtime political donor who once ran for a seat on the West Hollywood City Council. His Facebook page has boasted dozens of photos of him with prominent Democrats, including former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, California Gov. Jerry Brown, and Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Moore had been homeless and was working as an escort.

Since Moore's death was classified as an accidental methamphetamine overdose, numerous young black gay men have alleged that Buck has a fetish for shooting drugs into youthful black men he picks up off the street or on hookup sites. Moore had written about Buck injecting him with dangerous drugs before his death.

"I've become addicted to drugs and the worst one at that," Moore wrote in his journal in December 2016. "Ed Buck is the one to thank. He gave me my first injection of crystal meth."

"I ended up back at Buck [sic] house again and got manipulated [sic] into slamming again. I even went to the point where I was forced to doing 4 within a 2day [sic] period. This man is crazy and its [sic] sad. Will I ever get help?" he continued.

The last entry in Moore's diary, dated December 3, 2016, is especially suspicious.

"If it didn't hurt so bad, I'd kill myself but I'll let Ed Buck do it for now," the deceased wrote.

In wake of Moore's death, Congresswoman Karen Bass returned the \$250 she received from Buck and put it toward Moore's funeral expenses. West Hollywood Councilmember John D'Amico gave back the \$25 contribution he received.

Homicide investigators July 10 presented potential charges for Buck, including murder, voluntary manslaughter, and furnishing and possessing drugs on July 10. The District Attorney's office reviewed and rejected them all.

Buck's attorney Seymour Amster said his client had received a "complete exoneration." He told the Times, "Gemmell Moore's death was a tragedy. It's now clear that Ed Buck had nothing to do with it."

Daily Breeze

Bob Hope USO lands in posh new home at LAX to serve America's service men and women

Bob Hope himself would likely have saluted – and said "thanks for making new memories."

The USO center that bears his name moved into sharp new quarters on Friday at Los Angeles International Airport. USO officials and volunteers, members of the armed forces and lots of L.A. dignitaries marched into the ground level of LAX's Theme Building on Center Way.

"The men and women of our armed forces put their lives on the line to protect us every day — they deserve a warm welcome when they come home, and when they're traveling through our airport," said Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said in a news release. "This beautiful new facility opens a new chapter in the rich history of the Bob Hope USO at LAX, and I am proud to see it open its doors today."

At more than 7,00 square feet, the new center is twice the size of the airport's former USO near Terminal 3, with more room to offer more services to active military men and women – and their families.

"We are proud to open the doors of our iconic LAX Theme Building to our service members and their families, as the new home of the Bob Hope USO," said Deborah Flint, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) in a news release. "This renovated facility provides the Bob Hope USO an incredible space that reflects progress on our commitment to creating a world-class airport experience for all of our guests."

The center includes a tribute to Hope, who for decades devoted his time to entertaining American troops in the U.S. and abroad, during times of war and peace alike.

The facility includes a snack bar, dining room, private family rooms, movie theater TV lounge, family video-connection rooms, an outdoor pavilion and more. Services are provided free to service members 24 hours a day all year 'round, staffed by more than 250 volunteers.

Information: bobhopeuso.org

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Eric
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SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

1 message

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Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 7:54 AM

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Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA TIMES: How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice

LA TIMES: Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike

NY TIMES: The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors

CNBC: 2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS: Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races

LA Times

How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice

By: Dave Zahniser, Cindy Chang, and Richard Winton

Last Monday morning, Los Angeles civic leaders were in suspense.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had said he would probably announce his pick for police chief that day.

Text messages and phone calls flew between people who were usually in the know. "Have you heard?" "Still no word?"

There was a reason no one had heard. The mayor had not yet made up his mind.

He had been mulling the possibilities for almost a month. This was perhaps the most important hiring decision he would make, at a time when he was considering a bid for president of the United States.

The three finalists for the job — LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos, Bill Scott, chief of the San Francisco Police Department, and LAPD Assistant Chief Michel Moore — were more similar than different. All were LAPD veterans who embraced the kinder, gentler ethos of the post-Rodney King era. Each was a believer in the reforms begun by previous chiefs, promising to deepen ties with minority residents and find ways to reduce the number of shootings by police officers.

Each brought his own distinctive skills, personality and political upsides.

The mayor had consulted dozens of people in the run-up to his decision: law enforcement experts, union presidents, civil rights advocates, nonprofit executives, police officers, and, perhaps most crucial, the man who is vacating the post: Police Chief Charlie Beck.

Garcetti had conducted four rounds of in-person interviews, one with City Council members taking the lead. At one point, he even assigned the three finalists written homework, asking them to outline their ideas on technology, training and other topics.

The clock ticked past noon. Time was running out to convene an afternoon news conference.

At 1:17 p.m., Garcetti picked up his phone. The number he dialed was Moore's.

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On May 2, the city's civilian police commissioners interviewed five LAPD veterans, drawn from 31 applicants for the job. They quickly settled on their top three.

Arcos was genial and empathetic, a product of Atwater Village when it was still gang-ridden and working-class. If chosen, he would make history as the city's first Latino police chief at a time when President Trump's hard-line deportation policies have made some immigrants fearful of law enforcement.

Scott grew up as an African American in Alabama during the civil rights era. After 27 years with the LAPD, he was well-known in South Los Angeles as a leader who viscerally felt the costs of creating and implementing community programs.

And then there was Moore, known as a crime statistics wonk so well-versed in the ins and outs of managing the LAPD's 10,000 sworn officers that his learning curve as chief would essentially be zero.

Moore's father was Basque, and he is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, but his heritage has not played a large role in defining his identity at the LAPD.

Four of the five commissioners ranked Moore first, but that was no guarantee of success. Moore had also been the commission's top choice in 2009, when the job ended up going to Beck.

Beck was not retiring until June 27, but the appointment would need to be confirmed by the City Council, and Garcetti had indicated earlier that he hoped to be finished by the end of May.

The mayor set to work, seeking advice from dozens of people, including council members, immigrant rights advocates, former LAPD Chief Bill Bratton and San Francisco officials such as Dist. Atty. George Gascon.

Moore, who serves as Beck's No. 2, made it clear during the first round of interviews that he wasn't simply seeking to continue the policies of the current administration, Garcetti told The Times later. Instead, he offered his own ideas for running the LAPD.

Moore talked about ways that footage from the body cameras worn by police officers could be better used in the department's training, the mayor recalled. He also discussed how the LAPD could help homeless people get low-level citations expunged on their way to obtaining jobs and permanent housing.

"This was the first time where I could see him as a chief," the mayor said. "He had some pretty bold and brave ideas. It wasn't who people expected Michel Moore to be. Some have said he has a reputation for being real robotic, too tightly wound. But he was very much at ease."

Garcetti also turned to Connie Rice, a civil rights attorney who was once a fierce critic of the LAPD. Rice, a confidante to several mayors, had advocated for Beck the last time around. This time, she said, she did not publicly back a candidate, instead couching the conversation in terms of "if you want 'X,' you can select this candidate. If you want 'Y,' you can pick this person."

Plenty of others stepped forward to let Garcetti know they had a favorite.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights, left Garcetti a voicemail early on informing him that she favored Arcos.

Salas, a longtime Garcetti supporter, wanted a police chief from a neighborhood that had "consistently felt the brunt of aggressive policing." And she believed that a Latino police chief would be a countervailing force against a president "who is diminishing and demeaning" people of Mexican descent.

Garcetti also consulted Danny Bakewell, publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, an African American newspaper. Bakewell favored Scott, according to the mayor. So did a group of largely African American pastors who argued that the San Francisco chief has a deep understanding of South Los Angeles, which has had a fraught history with the LAPD.

Still, one of the city's most powerful voices on police reform came out in favor of Moore. Former Los Angeles Urban League President John Mack, who served on the police commission from 2005 to 2013, called Garcetti in late May, after the mayor had finished three rounds of interviews, and spent half an hour making his case.

Mack cited Moore's work on community policing and his track record on combating police brutality and racism in the LAPD. Moore "would build upon the reform, the progress, that's already been made," Mack said he told Garcetti.

As his self-imposed Monday deadline approached, Garcetti also called two police commissioners, Matt Johnson and Steve Soboroff — both Moore supporters.

Johnson said that in several conversations, the mayor delved into each candidate's ability to communicate with residents across the city as well as with the LAPD's rank-and-file officers. He was looking for a chief who would not impose an agenda but would listen and then win people over, Johnson said.

"He was thinking this through from every possible angle," Johnson said of Garcetti.

Soboroff spoke with Garcetti at about 2 p.m. Sunday. The two men discussed criteria such as who you would want at the helm if an earthquake occurred the day after the swearing-in. But Garcetti remained undecided.

Moore had been impressive from the first interview, Garcetti later told The Times. Scott began to look better and better, and Arcos remained in the mix.

"The candidates were so strong that he was really struggling," Soboroff said.

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In recent months, Garcetti, a Democrat, has traveled to early presidential primary states, including Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

As a Spanish-speaker of Mexican, Italian and Jewish heritage, Garcetti understands Los Angeles' divisive racial history. His father, Gil, was the district attorney who lost the O.J. Simpson prosecution in 1995.

On the national political stage, a police appointment makes a difference only if the chief does very well or very badly, said Jack Pitney, a professor of politics at Claremont McKenna College.

The publicity Garcetti would have gained by appointing Los Angeles' first Latino police chief would not have a lasting effect, particularly since the mayor already appeals to Latino voters with his fluent Spanish, Pitney said.

Moore ticked a box in another key area. As head of patrol operations, he is a major architect of the LAPD's crime-fighting strategies.

"If the chief were particularly ineffective in fighting crime, and people saw Los Angeles as being disorderly, that would be a liability," Pitney said. "Conversely, if the new chief is extremely effective, that's an asset."

The three finalists were not likely to differ substantively on immigration, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

But naming Arcos as chief would have been valuable symbolically, amplifying the LAPD's immigrant-friendly message, Guerra said.

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On Monday morning — the day of the expected announcement — Garcetti met with Beck at City Hall, hashing out the strengths of the three candidates in an hour-long conversation.

Beck, who promoted all three finalists to top positions in the LAPD, told The Times that he did not initially reveal his favorite to Garcetti. But partway into the mayor's search, Beck recommended Moore as a reformer who has played a key role in the department's major initiatives, from equipping officers with body cameras to training them how to reduce the use of deadly force.

Beck also thought Garcetti and Moore would get along.

"He has an unparalleled work ethic, an unparalleled breadth of experience with the LAPD. He's super smart and very responsive to those he works with," Beck said of Moore. "The mayor and he are definitely alike in that way."

Garcetti, for his part, said he did not feel that Beck was pushing him in a particular direction. Instead, the chief argued that chemistry and trust would be crucial in the decision.

"He said, 'This is all about who you click with,'" the mayor said.

Garcetti then reached out to Rice again. And he called Craig Lally, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents LAPD officers. The league did not publicly endorse a candidate, but it was known within City Hall that the group's board favored someone other than Moore.

Lally said he told the mayor that the next chief would have to confront the issue of patrol officers doing more with less, rushing to and from calls that often involve homeless or mentally ill people.

Until the end, Garcetti said, he was not leaning toward Moore but "went back and forth with these three guys pretty consistently."

About 15 minutes after making up his mind, Garcetti called Moore. He followed with a call to Beck. The news media were told to be at City Hall at 3:30 p.m.

As the cameras rolled, Garcetti stepped out, flanked by his new police chief

LA Times

Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike

By: Dave Zahniser

When Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled his yearly budget in April, he promised major progress in an area long neglected by City Hall: reconstruction of the city's worst roads.

Garcetti called for the city to more than double the amount of money it spends on repairs to D- and F-ranked streets, where pavement is so damaged that it frequently needs to be rebuilt — typically at a cost of \$1 million or more per lane mile.

Yet a major portion of that work cannot happen unless the City Council increases the fee charged to utilities that rip up and repair the city's streets. And in recent weeks, business leaders have been pushing back on the idea.

Garcetti's spending plan calls for the city to collect \$70.7 million in Street Damage Restoration Fees in 2018-19, up from the \$8.3 million budgeted for the current year. About \$30 million of that new revenue would be spent to repair L.A.'s worst roads, with additional money going to maintain streets that are still in decent condition.

The plan has drawn written objections from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, AT&T and others, who say it needs more public vetting.

The Central City Assn., a group that focuses heavily on real estate development, warned city lawmakers that the fee increase would have a disproportionate effect on housing construction downtown, where streets are being torn up to provide utility hookups for new residential buildings.

"We do not want to see the Street Damage Restoration Fee become a means by which downtown ... becomes the primary funding source for road reconstruction throughout Los Angeles," Jessica Lall, the group's president and chief executive, wrote in a letter in May.

About 25% of L.A.'s streets, or about 7,000 lane miles, are considered to be in poor condition, according to the city's most recent evaluation.

The Street Damage Restoration Fee was created in 1998 to help the city offset the cost incurred when utilities cut into public streets. Public works officials say those cuts, even when they are refilled, cause pavement to degrade at a faster rate, forcing the city to make additional repairs.

Although businesses have been the most vocal, the biggest effect could ultimately be felt by the Department of Water and Power, which frequently performs work on underground water pipes and electrical lines.

If the increase is approved, the city-owned utility is expected to spend nearly \$38 million annually on street damage fees, according to an analysis prepared for city lawmakers.

The DWP, whose board is composed of mayoral appointees, has voiced no public objections to the proposal. But Jack Humphreville, a frequent critic of city spending, called the increase a "revenue grab" by the city's elected officials — one that will result in higher bills for DWP customers.

"They're ramrodding this thing through, and the ratepayers are going to get hosed," said Humphreville, who belongs to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, a group that appears before lawmakers each year to present its views on the city budget.

Humphreville questioned whether the fee increase is aimed at making up for funds lost when Garcetti and the City Council agreed to scale back the amount of money the DWP pays the city each year to balance the budget. The reduction was part of a legal settlement backed by lawmakers last year.

Garcetti and other city officials say there's no connection between the rise in the street damage fee and last year's reduction in the DWP payment. They say officials have spent years studying the need for the city to recoup all of the costs incurred when utilities dig trenches on public rights-of-way.

"When utilities and telecom companies cut into our streets, they should be the ones paying to fix the damage," Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar said in an email to The Times. "Right now, the city has to cover more than 90% of what it costs to fully restore the street after the work on an underground pipe, cable or gas line is done."

Comisar said Garcetti's proposal was spurred by a 2014 audit from City Controller Ron Galperin, which concluded that the city had missed out on up to \$190 million in damage fees from utilities that performed street work since 1998.

In that report, auditors concluded the fee had not been calculated in a way that reflected all of the costs borne by the city from utility repairs.

"It's been 12 years since this [fee] has been reset, so we have to catch up," said Kevin James, a Garcetti appointee who presides over the Board of Public Works, which recommended that the fee be increased and reworked. "I agree with the controller — we should have done it years ago, but we didn't."

Still, the City Council is hedging its bets on whether the city will receive all of the fee revenue planned by the mayor for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

When they approved Garcetti's budget May 21, city lawmakers ensured that more than \$19 million in repairs planned for D- and F-rated streets cannot move ahead without another council vote — a move designed to ensure the money is available to pay for the work.

Some council members have declined to commit themselves to the fee hike envisioned by the mayor, saying that they want to study it more closely.

The fee for ripping up residential streets ranges from \$5.18 to \$7.78 per square foot, depending on how recently a street has been repaired. Under the proposal heading to the council, it would be increased to \$8.24 per square foot, Comisar said.

On major streets, such as Sunset, Wilshire and Venice boulevards, the fee would be raised to \$19.44 per square foot. That fee currently ranges from \$14.18 to \$21.26, depending on when the most recent repairs occurred.

Business groups have also questioned Garcetti's push to change the way the street damage fees would be charged. Under the proposal, utilities would pay a fee not just for an area where a trench is dug, but for any part of the street that sits within 5 feet of that trench.

City officials say that when a trench is cut and refilled, nearby soil underneath the street shifts, reducing support for the pavement. That causes it to become weakened over time, requiring more frequent repairs, they say.

Garcetti's appointees on the Board of Public Works have also suggested that council members look at charging the damage fee to Southern California Gas Co. Such a step would require the negotiation of a new franchise agreement, mayoral aides say.

The gas company has argued that imposition of the fee would lead to higher construction costs that would ultimately be absorbed by its ratepayers.

"Simply put, these additional fees are passed along to our customers and have the potential to significantly impact new businesses or homes requesting utility service," Geoffrey Danker, manager of franchise, fees and planning for the utility, wrote in a letter to city lawmakers.

NY Times

The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors

By: Shane Goldmacher

Senator Elizabeth Warren has come calling as recently as April. Kamala Harris, the first-term senator of California, has made repeated visits, starting as early as her third month in office. Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is also no stranger to the big-money donor world of New York; he was here in April — his third such visit in three months.

It will be months before Mr. Biden, Ms. Harris, Ms. Warren or most potential presidential aspirants will barnstorm across the farmlands of Iowa, dig into a low-country boil in South Carolina or field questions at a town-hall meeting in New Hampshire.

But with American presidential races requiring an ever-dizzying amount of money, an early, behind-the-scenes 2020 contest is already taking place: the New York money primary.

Over passed appetizers, intimate dinners and private board room meet-and-greets, a parade of nationally ambitious Democrats have been cycling through the offices and living rooms of the Manhattan money set.

Top New York donors and Democratic fund-raisers, in more than two dozen interviews, said that their phones rarely stop buzzing as candidates blitz one of the densest concentrations of Democratic wealth in the country.

Others calling and visiting include Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor; Mayor **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles; former Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts; Gov. Steve Bullock of Montana; and the former Missouri Senate candidate, Jason Kander. Then there are the ambitious locals who already keep their donor lists close at hand: Gov. Andrew M.

Cuomo and Senators Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

"When a candidate calls me to talk about 'strategy and issues,' you grab hold of your wallet for dear life," said Robert Zimmerman, a prominent New York donor and a member of the Democratic National Committee who has been in touch with multiple prospective candidates.

For now, it is more about making connections than collecting cash, as few donors are committing at this stage. But to run a serious primary campaign, Democrats know they will have to amass tens of millions of dollars in the coming two years. Even if they got started as early as this July (and none of the top tier is expected to get into the race until after the midterms), a candidate would have to raise nearly \$55,000 per day to construct a \$30 million war chest by the end of 2019.

New York will be crucial to that task. More than \$500 million came from the New York City area to political campaigns in the last full election — the most of any single metropolitan region in the country, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. New York State had 15 of the top 50 ZIP codes for giving in the 2016 elections; no other state, even California, had half that many.

While similar donor dynamics are playing out in other affluent liberal enclaves, such as Silicon Valley and Hollywood, the donor chase is especially early and intense here because, for the first time since at least 2004, there is no prohibitive front-runner to corner the market on all that New York campaign cash, a role that Hillary Clinton had played in the last two open Democratic nominating contests.

In March, Mr. Biden was the special guest at a \$10,000 per-person dinner benefiting House Democrats, at the home of the billionaire hedge fund manager James S. Chanos. In April, he attended a private fund-raising lunch at the home of a major Democratic donor, Dennis Mehiel, for his political action committee.

The night after Mr. Biden's April visit, Ms. Warren mingled with donors at the Manhattan home of Mark Green, a former New York City public advocate, the official reason being her 2018 re-election bid (for which she has already stockpiled \$15 million). A few months earlier, Meyer S. Frucher, the vice chairman of Nasdaq, hosted another fund-raising reception for Ms. Warren, according to people familiar with the gatherings.

Many donors said they gravitated toward politicians focused on the 2018 elections. Laetitia Garriott de Cayeux, who opened her Murray Hill home to Mr. Biden for the February event, said she did so "because I see Joe Biden going to every corner of the country to get Democrats elected in 2018."

Sarah Kovner, an influential Democratic fund-raiser in the city, said she ignores those too focused on the presidential campaign. "Fine — but not now, not from me. Not with Jon Tester in trouble and Claire McCaskill and Kyrsten Sinema in need," she said, rattling off the names of Democrats in key Senate races. "That's what I'm concentrating on."

Almost every politician visiting New York can claim a purpose other than their own unspoken ambition — Mr. Biden for his PAC, Ms. Warren for her re-election.

Mr. McAuliffe, a prolific and voracious fund-raiser who was once the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been raising money for a new group focused on redistricting. But when Mr. McAuliffe recently met with donors at an event that the longtime Clinton adviser, Douglas J. Band, helped put together, his spiel included a half-hour on his successes as governor, according to two attendees, despite saying he was focused entirely on the midterms.

Ms. Harris, who was sworn into her Senate seat in January 2017, trekked to New York two months into her term to put on a free "thank you" event for her big New York contributors at the Regency Hotel in March 2017. That summer, Michael Kempner, a public-relations executive and top Democratic bundler, hosted an event for her at his spread in the Hamptons. She and Senator Booker attended another dinner with politically engaged black executives in Bridgehampton, N.Y. More recently, the fashion retailer Lauren Santo Domingo, who is married to a billionaire beer heir, organized an event for Ms. Harris's PAC in February.

Mr. Patrick, now at Bain Capital, the private equity firm made famous for launching Mitt Romney's business career, does not have a political entity he is raising money for, but he has still kept in touch with New York donors, including attending a donor dinner last spring and an event to mingle with contributors more recently at the Manhattan offices of Morgan Stanley, according to people familiar with the events.

The lone Democratic outlier from the money chase is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who bypassed large contributors in his 2016 presidential bid and still raised about \$230 million, almost entirely from a torrent of small online donations — a model that many Democrats are trying to emulate.

But in an era when a single billionaire can, more or less, sustain a presidential candidate through a super PAC, the courtship of the donor class has anything but slowed.

There is a distinctive hierarchy to this donor dance: the bigger the contributor, the smaller the gathering. Billionaires and the biggest bundlers get almost limitless one-on-one time. The next tranche of mega-millionaires and political financiers get intimate dinners or office gatherings. Larger receptions are for standard-fare contributors.

Ronald Perelman, the billionaire donor, organized a fund-raiser for Ms. Harris's PAC at the offices of his company, MacAndrews & Forbes, last December. Earlier in the year, Mr. Perelman, who contributes to both Republicans and Democrats, had another ambitious Californian, Mr. Garcetti, for a cocktail hour among donors at his estate in the Hamptons.

Mr. Garcetti, who is known to hand out his personal cellphone number to contributors and encourage them to stay in touch, was last in New York in March, a trip that included some private catch-up time with top contributors as he raises money for his federal PAC to help Democrats in the midterms.

Another politician whom donors mentioned as solicitous of New York is Steve Bullock, the governor of Montana. He pitches himself as the rare Democrat who can get elected and get along in a deep red state. He, too, has a federal PAC and has been hiring strategists with national experience.

Other younger politicians, who are far from national figures, are still seeking exposure to the moneyed class of Manhattan, including Pete Buttigieg, the 36-year-old mayor of South Bend, Ind., (four visits already in 2018) and Mr. Kander, the 37-year-old former Missouri secretary of state who lost a Senate race in 2016 (two recent visits included donor events).

As Stu Loeser, a veteran Democratic strategist in New York, put it, "The road to the White House runs down 57th Street."

It is more than a figure of speech. In the 2016 cycle, two of the top five ZIP codes for political giving in America — 10022 and 10019, which span the length of 57th Street across Midtown Manhattan just south of Central Park — combined for \$120 million in donations, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

New York contributors say there has not been this much activity since at least 2003, the last open Democratic contest without Mrs. Clinton.

While Mrs. Clinton was seen as holding a near-stranglehold on prominent New York donors, none of the current New York-area politicians considered possible 2020 candidates — Ms. Gillibrand, Mr. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio or Mr. Booker — engender a similar sense of near-absolute loyalty.

"You can analogize this to a dating process in which there are still a lot of blind dates and first dates but not yet a lot of second dates or third dates," said Steven Rattner, a Wall Street executive and veteran Democratic fund-raiser. "Let alone anyone going steady or getting married."

CNBC

2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis

By: Julia Boorstin

One of the biggest challenges for the company founders and CEOs, right up there with scaling the company into a sustainable business, is finding qualified employees. Yet those on CNBC's Disruptor 50 list — the 50 companies CNBC believes have the potential to upend multibillion-dollar industries to become the next generation of great public companies — revealed they are actually seeing progress when it comes to hiring.

This is according to CNBC's annual survey of CNBC's Disruptor 50 companies, conducted from April 16 to May 16, 2018. More than 60 percent of respondents said it's easier right now to find qualified employees to fill open positions than it was a year ago; 11 percent went so far to say it's "a lot easier."

That's a little surprising, as small-business owners continue to report that finding qualified workers is a huge challenge. A May study of small businesses by the National Federation of Independent Business, a trade group representing 325,000 small and independent business owners across America, one third of small businesses have a job opening they can't fill, and nearly a quarter of all small-business owners claim that finding qualified workers is their single most important business problem. The April 2018 NFIB report revealed that while 57 percent of small businesses are hiring or planning to hire, 88 percent of them report difficulties finding qualified candidates.

So why are Disruptors having an easier time? One reason could be the fact that these fast growing, higher-profile companies are just more appealing to applicants than the average small business. In fact, three of this year's Disruptor 50 companies, and five now-public former Disruptors, appeared on LinkedIn's 2018 List of 50 Top Companies where professionals want to work.

It could point to an even more specific reason. A March 2017 study from BuC found a majority of workers (and employers)

equal majority of men) weigh the diversity of company leadership and workforce when they decide whether or not to work for an employer. So it might not be a coincidence that many of the Disruptor 50 companies that say it's easier or even "a lot easier" to find qualified employees — like Rent the Runway and Thinx — have female CEOs.

A recent Global Information Security Workforce study supports their findings, at least in the information technology sector: Its study claims that as many as 1.8 million IT jobs could be unfilled by 2022. That is 20 percent more than what the same study predicted two years earlier.

Rodney Williams, the CEO and co-founder of three-time disruptor Lisnr, this year at No. 22, has reaped the benefits of being a desired place to work, especially in Cincinnati, where Lisnr was founded.

"In Cincinnati we were able to attract the superstars," said Williams, speaking at CNBC's Disruptor 50 Roadshow event in Los Angeles last month. Still, he said, the company struggled to fill management positions. "We had a challenge finding talent that had done this before, who knew the nuances of ... taking a business to the next step." Lisnr has since set up shop in Oakland, California, where it's been able to tap the Silicon Valley talent pool.

Back in Los Angeles, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said the city's assortment of universities helps ensure that local tech entrepreneurs can find plenty of talent, but there's a dramatic hiring gap in other industries. "What keeps me up is not whether tech companies will have those workers, but closing the gap in other places." By this he means finding qualified workers in fields other than in tech.

"We have trade jobs. We have things at the port where 40 percent of the goods come into America. We want to make sure those high-paying jobs stay there for the future. Electrifying our trucks and our logistics fleet to reduce pollution. Those are the gaps I think that I want to fill in terms of skills, to be able to put people into community college and find those levels."

He added: "If we are going to build 40 years' worth of rapid transit lines, we can get those workers from other states. But we should be growing them here so they don't need a college degree to have a middle-class job as a laborer, electrician, a construction worker."

Nationwide, however, the information technology sector has the highest rate of job openings among all sectors of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department's most recent survey of Job Openings and Labor Turnover (also known as the JOLT Survey) reveals there were 178,000 open tech jobs in April, up more than 50 percent from April 2017.

So while some Disruptor 50 companies may have their pick of the best candidates, tech firms in general have increasingly more open positions, with increasingly fewer people available to fill them.

San Jose Mercury News

Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races

By: Paul Rogers

Most voters already know that Gavin Newsom and Dianne Feinstein — who easily advanced to the November general election in their races for governor and U.S. senator — were among the big winners in Tuesday's California primary election.

But there's another group also popping the champagne this week: environmentalists.

Across California and the Bay Area, environmental groups had one of their best elections ever. They won nearly every major race they contested, securing billions of dollars for parks, beaches, water projects and public transportation, and at the same time helped kill plans to develop Silicon Valley hillsides and a proposal to change the way the state spends money from its greenhouse gas auctions.

"People want open space and parks, they want clean air and clean water," said Deb Callahan, executive director of the Bay Area Open Space Council, a coalition of more than 50 parks agencies and land trusts. "And clearly people are willing to pay for it. There's an understanding that you need to invest in priorities."

The biggest victory statewide for conservation groups was the passage of Proposition 68, a \$4.1 billion parks and water bond that voters easily approved 56-44 percent.

The measure only passed in 27 of California's 58 counties, but it won by huge margins of 65 percent or more in most Bay Area counties and 61 percent in Los Angeles County, which easily offset "no" votes from the Central Valley and counties such as Riverside and San Bernardino, where it narrowly failed.

Proposition 68 is the first statewide funding measure for parks approved by California voters in 12 years, with about \$2.8 billion headed to parks and wildlife, and \$1.3 billion going to water and flood control projects, much of it to be handed out by the Legislature and state agencies through competitive grants.

Environmental groups donated \$6.4 million on the Yes on 68 campaign, with major funding coming from the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Save the Redwoods League and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Green groups faced opposition from taxpayer groups but no organized campaign against them. They spent heavily on social media, blanketed farmers markets, ran volunteer-driven phone banks and cultivated events with high-profile supporters such as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

They also secured endorsements from business groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Orange County Business Council.

The measure will mean millions for urban parks, soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, bike paths and public swimming pools — with a special emphasis on low-income urban areas. Also slated for funding are trails, beaches, forests, visitor centers and campgrounds at state and regional parks, and new funding for groundwater cleanup, flood control and drinking water treatment plants.

Although business groups regularly battle with environmentalists in other states, many in the Bay Area and Southern California are increasingly finding common ground, said Larry Gerston, a professor emeritus of political science at San Jose State University. That's because they see parks, recreation, clean air and clean water as a "quality of life" selling point to lure and keep talented workers, particularly in the face of high housing costs and traffic.

"There's a package," Gerston said. "It's salary, it's benefits, but it's also the weather and a better environment, and the ocean and parks."

Among the other big wins by environmental groups Tuesday:

- Proposition 72, a tax break for people who install rain barrels or other systems on their rooftops to conserve water, passed 84-16 percent.
- Proposition 70 went down in a landslide defeat, 64-36 percent. It would have allowed Republicans in Sacramento more of a say in how the state spends the money it generates from the "cap and trade" permits it auctions to oil refineries, factories and other large emitters of greenhouse gases. Environmentalists worried it would mean less money for public transit, solar rebates and other conservation measures.
- Measure B and C in San Jose. An attempt by developers to allow the construction of 910 senior housing units on vacant land in the city's Evergreen area, failed 58-42 percent. The measure was opposed by environmental groups who said it would transform 200 acres of hillsides into a wealthy gated community without environmental review. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who also opposed Measure B, led efforts to qualify Measure C, which makes it more difficult to develop open areas in Evergreen, Almaden Valley and Coyote Valley. It passed 60-40 percent.
- Regional Measure 3. A \$3 toll increase over the next six years at seven bridges that cross San Francisco Bay, but not the Golden Gate Bridge, to raise \$4.5 billion for transportation projects, won 54-46 percent. The measure was backed by business groups but also had the support of Save the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenbelt Alliance and the League of Conservation Voters. Although it funds freeway improvements, it also will expand BART, Caltrain, ferry service, buses and bike lanes. "We've got to reduce our reliance on cars to cut greenhouse emissions and roadway runoff pollution to the bay," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.
- Measure C in Napa County, which would limit the number of oak trees that vineyard owners can cut down on hillsides, narrowly led Friday night 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent, despite farmers and the wine industry heavily outspending conservation groups.
- In Davis, Measure H, which renewed a \$49 annual parcel tax for parks, bike paths, swimming pools and street trees for another 20 years, was approved 73-28 percent.
- In Santa Cruz, 76 percent of voters approved Measure U, an advisory measure that opposes recently announced plans by UC-Santa Cruz to expand campus enrollment by 10,000 students to 28,000 by 2040.
- In Martinez, Measure I, which requires voter approval to develop areas zoned for open space or parks, led late Friday, but by tiny margin more than Measure F, which requires voter approval for such changes but only on publicly owned land. Measure I had 51.37 percent and Measure F had 50.87 percent of the vote, yet thousands of mail-in ballots in Contra Costa County remain to be counted, so the results could change. The measure with the most votes will prevail if both pass.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Fri, May 18, 2018 at 6:59 AM

To: Clips <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Cc: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

LA TIMES: Koreatown needs a homeless shelter. It also needs city officials to learn from the mistakes of the past

LA TIMES: A closer look at the three finalists for LAPD chief

LA TIMES: L.A. transit officials consider Metro-owned sites in Valley, Venice to aid homeless

USA TODAY: In the second Gilded Age, the mansions get bigger, and the homeless get closer

THE HILL: A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right

CITY WATCH: Koreatown Roars in Protest, Demands Public Hearings

JEWISH JOURNAL: What's Happening in Jewish L.A. May 18:23: Mayor Talks 'Critical Issues'; Shavuot Events (LINK ONLY)

LA Times

Koreatown needs a homeless shelter. It also needs city officials to learn from the mistakes of the past

By: Joon Bang

"Dowajuseyo." In Korean, it means "help me."

A few months ago, I received a call from an L.A. County mental health facility. They had just taken a frail Korean grandmother into their care, and officials couldn't figure out what to do with her. In her 70s, with a full head of gray hair, the woman probably weighed no more than 85 pounds and had been living on the streets after being evicted from her Koreatown home. She was afraid to be alone in a facility with people who were unable to communicate with her and wanted to be released.

As executive director of the Korean American Coalition, I often find myself in this somewhat fraught position — a bridge between the limited-English-speaking Korean immigrant community and the service providers who have the resources to help them. I spoke with the grandmother's family, who told me that their financial hardship made their grandmother's mental illness difficult to manage on their own. I tried again and again to broker some kind of arrangement. Ultimately, we were unable to find a solution. The grandmother was released to the streets. She's currently among a growing number of Korean American seniors who are experiencing homelessness.

Koreatown is changing.

The area has long been a symbol for the Korean American and immigrant story. It is a place of identity and pride for a community that believes in hard work and sacrifice. But in just the past two years, the city of Los Angeles has approved over 50 new Koreatown development projects — the majority of them hotels and luxury rentals — in what is the densest and arguably the most socioeconomically diverse community in all of California. Though you don't hear much about it, homelessness is increasing at a rapid rate. I've heard stories of a hidden Korean American homeless community that uses 24-hour spas to stay off the streets and sleeps in the pews of local churches.

In 2017, in an effort to figure out just how widespread this problem is, our organization filmed a documentary called "Invisible Neighbors" on the topic. The results were disturbing enough that, this year, we partnered with homelessness experts from the United Way, EPATH, Homeless Health Care, Rand and USC, as well as representatives from L.A. City Council District 10. Our goal was to develop a process to count the invisible ethnic Korean homeless population, identify the causes of its spread and brainstorm possible solutions to the growing issue.

After three months of preparation, this effort was scheduled to launch in May. But everything came to a halt when L.A. announced plans to build a new homeless shelter in Koreatown. It caught everyone off guard, especially longtime residents and small shop owners who were unaware and uninformed of the plan to put a shelter in the heart of Koreatown's economic corridor, where many business owners are quietly experiencing a financial downturn.

After speaking with various members of the community, I feel confident saying the protests occurred not because we don't want temporary or supportive housing for those struggling with homelessness. These protests were a direct response to being left out of the process — unable to ask questions and work together with the city to find the best location.

There's also a deeper context here. For many Koreatown residents, a deep sense of distrust of local government exists

one which stems back to the 1992 L.A. riots, when the Koreatown community was abandoned and left to fend for itself. Over 1,700 businesses were destroyed, leaving residents and small businesses to pick up the pieces and rebuild on their own. Koreatown may look like a hip place to eat and play, but for many, it remains a symbol of the difficult Korean American journey.

City officials have since acknowledged their community outreach should have been better. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson are working with community leaders to educate the public on the details of the project and address concerns.

That's important, because the truth is that more and more Korean Americans and Koreatown residents need access to homeless services — and this is an opportunity to get them that help.

At first glance, the appearance of a homeless shelter may seem like a threat to our identity and culture of hard work and resilience. But the reality is that our community is changing — and has been for some time. Be it the high cost of living, lack of affordable housing, a rapidly growing elderly population or threats to immigration status, Korean Americans are indeed amongst the homeless. We have a responsibility to take care of them.

Wherever a shelter ends up being located, we must ensure it delivers on its promises — not only for the community, but, more importantly, for the sake of those who will be sleeping there.

"Dowajuseyo." Help me.

As Angelenos, we need to step up together and answer the call.

LA Times

A closer look at the three finalists for LAPD chief

By: Cindy Chang and James Queally

As young cops, the three finalists for chief of the Los Angeles Police Department were taught a harsh style of policing that emphasized crackdowns and arrests.

They have since disavowed that strategy, rising through the ranks of a department that has recast itself as a kinder, gentler LAPD. All three use similar catchphrases: building ties with residents, investing in youth sports and academic programs, assuring immigrants that the LAPD wants to help them, not deport them.

But for the official making the selection, Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is considering a run for president, each of the veteran cops brings political benefits.

Robert Arcos would be the first Latino police chief of a city that is nearly 50% Latino. Bill Scott, who left the LAPD to lead the troubled San Francisco Police Department, is African American and a familiar face in South Los Angeles.

Michel Moore, whose father was a Basque immigrant, was already in the top echelons of the LAPD when the other two candidates were appointed to their first station commands. LAPD insiders say his breadth of experience and mastery of subjects from crime statistics to budgets are second to none.

Arcos has the backing of some powerful Latino politicians, while a coalition of African American pastors and community activists is supporting Scott.

Garcetti received the names of the three finalists, chosen by the city's civilian Police Commission from a field of 31 applicants, on May 4. He has said that he expects to pick the new chief by the end of the month, if not sooner — well in advance of Chief Charlie Beck's June 27 retirement. The City Council will then vote on Garcetti's choice.

In selecting three men with decades of experience in the LAPD, the commission signaled its desire to stay the course set by Beck and his predecessor, William Bratton, who remade the department under a federal consent decree. Among the challenges the new chief will face: how to improve relationships with some black and Latino residents, who are critical of fatal police shootings and complain about bearing the brunt of the LAPD's enforcement operations.

Garcetti has said he wants to choose the best leader and is not aiming for a demographic first. Several City Council members had indicated that it was time for the leader of one of the largest police departments in the country to be a woman. But former Assistant Chief Sandy Jo MacArthur, who was among five candidates interviewed by the commission, did not make the final three.

"It's a nice, diverse pool, with the exception of no female," said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. "It reflects L.A., and it reflects the new LAPD."

Robert Arcos

Arcos, 57, moved to L.A. from Texas with his mother and four younger siblings when he was 10. The family eventually settled in Atwater Village, then a working-class, mostly minority community where young men faced pressure to join gangs. His mother struggled financially, sometimes relying on food stamps.

Later, as a sergeant at the station that polices his old neighborhood, Arcos ran into childhood friends who had been arrested by his colleagues.

"My story is very similar to many of the kids in underserved communities," Arcos said. "That gives me a connection and empathy to realize where people are when they're at their most vulnerable and low."

Scott Kroeber was the captain of the elite Metropolitan Division in 2005, when Arcos came in as a lieutenant charged with implementing changes recommended by top brass.

Kroeber remembers Arcos as a "people-oriented" manager who cared so much about his police officers that he would agonize over what degree of discipline to give them. As an outsider to Metro's insular culture, Arcos did not force the changes down officers' throats and gradually won them over.

"He's that rare individual who strikes the happy medium — we need to go there, and let's bring people along to do it willingly," said Kroeber, who retired in 2013.

After his Metro assignment, Arcos made captain, serving as second-in-command at Olympic Division and then the officer in charge at 77th. Beck promoted him quickly to commander. He worked at administrative services and Central Bureau before taking charge of Central in 2016 as a deputy chief.

At Central, which includes downtown and Northeast L.A., Arcos often manages large street demonstrations. The area is also the epicenter of L.A.'s worsening homelessness crisis.

As chief, Arcos said, he would enhance the department's de-escalation training so officers make different choices in a situation where "you can shoot, but should you?"

"It's time for another cultural shift," Arcos said. "Our policies have to reflect the community's values."

Arcos is a third-generation Mexican American who understands some Spanish but does not speak it fluently.

At a time when "the Trump administration has declared war on our immigrant communities," Arcos is a "once in a lifetime" leader who has "challenged the status quo and embraced modern, non-traditional policing," City Councilman Gil Cedillo wrote in an endorsement letter to Garcetti, which was also signed by former council members Gloria Molina, Richard Alatorre, Mike Hernandez and Ed Reyes.

In 2006, while Arcos was a lieutenant in Metro, his daughter Chelsea killed two people in a drunk driving accident on the 5 Freeway. The LAPD launched an Internal Affairs investigation into an allegation that Arcos asked the probation department to alter a report in his daughter's favor. The investigation eventually cleared Arcos, and he denies wrongdoing.

David Pokorny, the lead California Highway Patrol investigator in the case, said he has no proof that Arcos put pressure on the probation department. But in an interview with The Times last week, he called the Internal Affairs investigation a "massive coverup." Pokorny, who is now retired, said that investigators never interviewed him, even though he was central to the case.

After Pokorny warned Chelsea Arcos' attorney that the probation report was flawed, the attorney never presented it in court, Pokorny told The Times.

Chelsea Arcos was convicted of two counts of vehicular manslaughter, among other crimes, and sentenced to seven years in prison.

"I never tried to mitigate it, minimize it or excuse it," Robert Arcos said of his daughter's actions. "She got what she deserved."

In 2015, after her release from prison, Chelsea Arcos pleaded no contest to driving under the influence in another incident and was sentenced to an alcohol treatment program and 60 days in jail. Her previous convictions could not legally be used to upgrade the charge from a misdemeanor to a felony, said a spokeswoman from the L.A. County District Attorney's Office.

The other driver, who was not seriously hurt, filed a lawsuit in January that includes Robert Arcos and his wife as defendants and alleges Arcos used his position to get his daughter a light sentence.

Arcos' attorney has moved to dismiss the case, arguing that the parents are not legally liable for their daughter's actions.

"I had nothing to do with it. I had no influence. She's an adult," Arcos said.

Arcos and his wife have spoken at high schools about their daughter's experience. At the LAPD, Arco has warned police officers who have gotten DUIs about the devastating consequences of drinking and driving.

"I never want anybody to experience this, as a parent, a sibling, a close friend, ever," he said.

Michel Moore

Moore, 57, was among the finalists for LAPD chief in 2009. The Police Commission ranked him highest of the three, but Beck got the job. Moore has made no secret about his desire to lead a police department and was recently a finalist for the top jobs in Dallas and San Diego.

As a boy growing up with six siblings, Moore moved constantly while his parents looked for work. He remembers a Christmas night in Flint, Mich., when officials came to repossess the family station wagon. In Arkansas, his stepfather suggested that he stop using his Basque last name, Sanchotena, because of the racial prejudice there. He has been Michel Moore ever since, with "Michel" pronounced like "Michael."

Moore, who is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, said he identifies as the son of an immigrant and views policing through that lens. Otherwise, he said, he is "one of billions."

As a young police officer, Moore pulled the trigger in two fatal shootings. At that point, he said, he was happy to join the department's DARE program and teach kids about the dangers of drugs. Later, as a sergeant, Moore got his first taste of the wonky data crunching he would become known for, creating the department's first automated crime-mapping system.

After stints in internal affairs, Wilshire Division and vice, he was tapped to lead Rampart Division in 1998, the day after Rafael Perez was arrested in a corruption scandal that came to define the department. Officers in Rampart thought Perez was wrongly accused, Moore said. As a newly minted captain, he had to persuade them to abandon the "Rampart way" and start doing things the LAPD way.

Under Bratton, Moore was deputy chief of West Bureau and then Valley Bureau. In 2010, Beck promoted him to assistant chief — a rung below chief. He rotated through special operations, which includes detectives, counterterrorism and SWAT; administrative services, including the behind-the-scenes realms of budget, personnel and training; and his current position, patrol operations.

Moore is by all accounts a demanding boss who expects his subordinates to be as versed in every detail as he is. Whether you view Moore as a driven leader or a micromanager depends on whether you are ready to rise to his level, said Capt. Jay Roberts, who was Moore's adjutant.

"He taught me about juggling 1,600 balls at the same time," Roberts said. "I was kept on my toes for three years — he held me accountable."

At the LAPD's weekly Compstat meetings, Moore asks detailed questions of station captains but does not humiliate them. He emails the topics he will cover — whether robberies, burglaries or auto thefts — to the captains in advance. He said he wants to work with them to find solutions to seemingly impossible problems.

"As a former captain, I have an appreciation for the pressures and challenges they're under," Moore said. "I've seen other people putting on Compstat ... and embarrassing the hell out of the captains."

Moore has been at the forefront of the LAPD's efforts to reduce fatal shootings by encouraging officers to use Tasers and beanbag shotguns. He recently proposed a system to quantify positive community interactions such as public meetings and roll calls held on city streets.

"It's not just enforcement — crime suppression, getting guns off the street," Moore said. "It's engagement — being in church pews, working foot beats."

Moore, who lives in Santa Clarita, said he will move to L.A. if he becomes chief.

"To represent a city of 4 million, I think it speaks to being fully vested in the outcomes of what happens in the city," he said

The Political Action Committee of the Mexican American Bar Assn. has endorsed Moore as the most qualified candidate for police chief.

"The City of Los Angeles is made up of many diverse communities and Assistant Chief Moore has the knowledge, background, and expertise that is superior to any other candidate in working with all minority groups," Felipe Plascencia, the group's president, wrote in a letter to Garcetti.

A similarly named but unrelated group, the Mexican American Bar Assn., is supporting Arcos.

Bill Scott

Scott was raised in a military family, eventually settling in Birmingham, Ala. Some of his relatives who were active in the civil rights movement were sprayed with fire hoses and attacked by police dogs, he said in a 2015 interview with The Times. He kept that historical perspective in mind during his 27 years at the LAPD, particularly when managing volatile relationships between the police and the community in South L.A.

"You cannot say, 'Forget it,'" Scott said. "An 82-year-old African American man grew up in a place where they had to live through some of the things that were happening 50 years ago. They aren't going to forget that, and neither should we."

When homicides skyrocketed in South L.A. in the beginning of 2016, Scott was among the architects of a command center that deployed Metropolitan Division officers to crime hot spots. On many nights, the officers were charged with stopping drivers who had committed traffic violations and then seeing if there was a legal reason to search for drugs or weapons.

That approach, coupled with cooperation from gang intervention workers to stop retaliatory killings, was necessary to reduce the violence, Scott said in a September 2016 interview with The Times, when he was deputy chief of South Bureau. But he also articulated the long-term cost of locking people up.

"If you are an 8-year-old depending on your father to provide for you, and now you see your father going away in handcuffs, who are you going to be mad at? Your father or the police officer who took him away?" he said.

When Scott left for San Francisco at the end of 2016, Beck praised his "tactical skills, intelligence and kindness."

Scott is trying to turn around a department reeling from a racist text message scandal and the controversial police killing of a black man named Mario Woods.

Shortly before Scott's arrival, the U.S. Department of Justice had released a study showing that San Francisco police disproportionately used force against minorities, also stopping and searching them more frequently than whites. Scott is working to implement reforms recommended by the Department of Justice and has pushed to arm all his officers with Tasers.

The San Francisco Police Department has about 2,000 officers, compared with 10,000 at the LAPD.

John Burris, a Bay Area civil rights attorney who represented Woods' relatives, said Scott has an open mind on officer discipline and has sometimes tussled with the city's combative police union.

"He came to meetings early and did not, like other chiefs in the past, automatically assume the police's position," Burris said.

Roberts, the LAPD captain, described Scott as measured and low-key, with a management style that emphasizes collaboration.

"He holds you accountable but in a very friendly way — smiling, laughing, with humor built in," Roberts said. "His strength is that people don't have their guard up when they enter the room. He's able to bridge gaps."

At a news conference earlier this week, some African American community leaders said they were supporting Scott not because of his race but because he can connect with South L.A. residents and understand their uneasy relationship with the LAPD.

"No one knows South L.A. like Bill Scott does," said Najee Ali, president of Project Islamic HOPE. "We want Chief Scott to come back home to his city and his community, because the city needs him and South L.A. needs him."

Departing from recent precedent, Garcetti did not initially release the list of three finalists, citing respect for their confidentiality, but the names were reported by The Times using sources with knowledge of the process. The secrecy was

seen by some observers as an attempt to protect Scott from a backlash in San Francisco. Scott has deflected questions about whether he applied for the job and has not responded to The Times' requests for an interview.

"I'm a man of my word, first and foremost," Scott told ABC7 San Francisco the day his appointment as chief was announced. "My intent is to be here as long as the city and the citizens and people will have me here, and to get the job done."

But with Beck's retirement and the death of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who appointed him, Scott's ambitions turned back to Los Angeles.

LA Times

L.A. transit officials consider Metro-owned sites in Valley, Venice to aid homeless

By: Laura J. Nelson

Los Angeles County transportation officials have identified five properties, including parking lots in the San Fernando Valley and a former bus yard in Venice Beach, that could be used to provide services or temporary housing for Los Angeles County's growing homeless population.

The properties, owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, are either vacant or underused, officials said. It is unclear what services would be provided at the sites or how Metro would address public health, safety and liability concerns.

The list of proposed properties was assembled for Metro's directors, who have pushed to expand the agency's role in addressing the county's homelessness crisis. Riders' negative perceptions of safety and cleanliness on the system are leading reasons behind a decline in ridership, officials have said.

"This is an unprecedented crisis in Los Angeles, and we all — all levels of government, all neighborhoods — need to be treating this as if it were a natural disaster," said Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin, the chair of Metro's customer experience committee, during a downtown meeting Thursday.

Similar efforts are underway in the city of Los Angeles, where Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is pursuing a \$20-million initiative to build temporary homeless shelters on city-owned parking lots. The first proposed facility, a 65-bed shelter near Wilshire Boulevard and Vermont Avenue, has sparked an outcry from Koreatown residents.

Metro is a major county landowner, with a portfolio that includes dozens of train stations, parking lots and bus yards, as well as parcels adjacent to rail lines that were acquired during construction.

The agency's real estate staff identified 40 possible properties, then eliminated sites slated for construction or development within 18 months. The agency also ruled out heavily used park-and-ride lots as well as sites that are "isolated" and removed from transit and social services, Metro Deputy Executive Officer John Potts said.

Commuters rarely fill the park-and-ride lots at the Orange Line busway stations in Van Nuys, Tarzana and Canoga Park, which would be prime candidates for homeless services, Metro said. The lots are adjacent to the Orange Line bike path, where Valley residents have frequently complained of homeless encampments.

A former bus yard in Venice Beach that closed in 2015 is also on the list. The 3.15-acre lot on Sunset Avenue is three blocks from the Pacific Ocean and a short walk from Abbot Kinney Boulevard, where homes sell for more than \$3 million.

Metro closed the bus facility after fielding multiple offers from buyers who wanted to develop the site, but no deal is expected within a year and a half. The building that formerly housed the bus yard's facilities would require some environmental remediation before people could work inside, Potts said.

The final site runs along San Fernando Road in northeast Los Angeles, sandwiched between the street and Metrolink tracks. A trucking company recently terminated its lease there for cab parking, freeing up 34,000 square feet that could be used for overnight parking for people living in cars and camper vans.

Metro's directors took no steps Thursday to move forward with the homeless services plan, and they raised a number of questions about how Metro would provide and fund the programs. They also questioned how long services that are described as "temporary" could be provided.

The hope, Potts said, is that Metro will hire an outside service provider and draft a contract with a "firewall" that protects the agency from any public safety, security and liability concerns.

All five sites are in the city of Los Angeles, and elected officials and their constituents should be notified, said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. She also raised questions about how a safe overnight parking program would work.

Directors did not mention mobile showers or bathrooms, a service that Garcetti previously described as "very appropriate" for land near Metro stations. The vast majority of the rail and bus system has no bathroom access, because officials have traditionally said the facilities could be magnets for drug use and prostitution.

The city of L.A. operates a hygiene trailer with showers and laundry machines in a city-owned parking lot on skid row. Security officers and a maintenance crew monitor the facility, and people who come in can speak with a homeless outreach worker.

Metro directors also supported a proposal to expand Metro's homeless outreach program, which began a year ago.

Currently, two teams of outreach workers walk through subway stations and ride trains on weekday mornings and afternoons, helping people find housing and other services. The expanded program would provide six more outreach teams, including workers who would ride the system on Saturdays, Sundays and overnight.

One team of outreach workers would be assigned exclusively to L.A.'s all-night buses, which carry so many sleeping homeless people that riders sometimes call them "rolling motels."

The expansion, which still needs a full Metro board vote, would increase the annual cost of the program from \$1.2 million to \$4.2 million.

USA Today

In the second Gilded Age, the mansions get bigger, and the homeless get closer

By: Rick Hampson

LOS ANGELES — When she became president of the Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association, Robin Greenberg wanted to do something for people who couldn't afford any home, much less one like hers in the golden hills of Bel Air.

So every month for eight years, she and colleagues went to Skid Row or elsewhere downtown to feed the homeless.

Then, last December, she learned the homeless had come to her.

Before dawn on Dec. 6 a wildfire raced out of a parched ravine in Bel Air, scorching 422 acres, destroying or damaging 18 homes and forcing the evacuation of about 700 others — including Robin Greenberg's.

Even more shocking than the fire's damage was its cause: a portable stove at a homeless encampment right there in Bel Air.

The wildfire is an instructive tale of America's second Gilded Age, a time when the kinds of excesses and extremes that once seemed to have been consigned to U.S. history have come roaring back.

In this Gilded Age, like the one at the end of the 19th Century, the gap between rich and poor is widening; monopolies have more power over business, business has more power over politics and politics are close-fought and hyper-partisan. The pace of change — technological, cultural, social — is dizzying.

In his presidential campaign, Donald Trump simultaneously evoked two Gilded Age types, the plutocrat and the populist. "Trump is the perfect figure for the new Gilded Age. He's like something out of Mark Twain" (who coined the term "Gilded Age" in 1873), says David Nasaw, a biographer of Gilded Age industrialist Andrew Carnegie. "Exaggeration is his essence."

The most striking feature shared by the two Gilded Ages is growing economic inequality. In the 19th Century, the juxtaposition of squalor and splendor shocked a rural nation that was moving to the city; today, it haunts a nation that can remember the relative equality of the Depression, World War II and the long post-war period.

Nowhere is this inequality more apparent than Los Angeles, where hundreds of encampments have sprung up on beaches, in riverbeds and in canyons as the homeless population has exploded and expanded beyond its old boundaries.

The homeless camp where the December wildfire started was only a mile from a new hilltop mansion twice the size of the White House that's for sale for \$500 million. It destroyed the \$5.5 million house of former NBA star Andrei Kirilenko, singed some vines at Rupert Murdoch's Moraga winery and forced celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Chelsea Handler to flee.

A sign of the apocalypse? Or just bad karma?

"I'm not a fire-and-brimstone, end-of-the-world kind of guy," says Bert Muto, a formerly homeless man who saw a fire at another homeless camp threaten multimillion-dollar houses. "But the Biblical stuff is a reminder of what it feels like today."

where's it gonna stop?"

Build no small mansions

CHAPTER 1

The Gilded Age began about a decade after the end of the Civil War and ended around 1901, when President William McKinley was assassinated and reformer Teddy Roosevelt took office.

It was an era of robber barons such as Rockefeller, Carnegie and Vanderbilt; of state legislatures (which at the time elected U.S. senators) controlled by railroads and other special interests; of giant industrial monopolies known as "trusts;" of financial crises, including the panics of 1873, 1893 and 1907; and of a populist reaction against all of the above.

Tycoons built 70-room marble oceanfront "cottages" that they occupied for only four to eight weeks a year. A New York couple spent \$400,000 — more than \$9 million today — to throw a costume ball at the Waldorf Hotel. Sociologist Thorstein Veblen termed the phenomenon "conspicuous consumption."

The city that epitomized the first Gilded Age was New York, site of the greatest houses, most glittering social events and the mightiest banks. It was home to the social elite — the so-called Four Hundred (the number that could fit into Mrs. Astor's ballroom). Its slums, with names like Bandit's Roost and Misery Row, were the subject of Jacob Riis' book *How the Other Half Lives*.

But the capital of America's second Gilded Age is Los Angeles, where hilltop homes worth tens of millions of dollars look out over a city in which even the middle class struggles to afford shelter and the number of homeless increases daily. The city's famed sprawl cannot isolate Angelinos from disorienting contrasts many Americans assumed had disappeared after reforms of the Progressive Era, the New Deal and the Great Society.

The heart of Gilded Age Los Angeles is Bel Air, a community of curving lanes and hillside mansions where a Hollywood legend lurks behind every hedge and gate.

One may purchase "gigamansions" with names such as *The One*, (\$500 million); *Chartwell*, the setting for *The Beverly Hills* TV show (\$295 million); *Billionaire*, with an ornamental helicopter on the roof (\$188 million, down from \$250 million); and *The Manor*, once home of producer Aaron Spelling (\$200 million).

(These prices are more aspirational than rational; the \$110 million for which Hard Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton's Malibu home sold last month broke the L.A. record of \$100 million set two years ago by the *Playboy Mansion* and another house.)

In Bel Air, a house is really considered a mansion only if it's 30,000 square feet — 12 times as large as the average American single family house.

As a result, many of Bel Air's steep, narrow lanes are construction zones. "There's a saying here," says Jeff Hyland, head of the city's leading high-end real estate agency. "If the house is 10 years old, it's a candidate for a remodel. If it's 20 years old, it's a candidate for a tear down."

Ready to party

CHAPTER 2

Once, the rich built their own dream houses. In the second Gilded Age, however, developers such as Nile Niami, a former B-movie producer, will do it for them.

Niami is the builder of *The One*, the USS *Enterprise* of the new class of spec houses. It sits on a 4-acre hilltop lot with 360-degree views, including the downtown skyline and the Pacific.

The One has 20 bedrooms, seven pools (including a moat) and five elevators. It has a nightclub, casino, flower room, spa, gym, beauty salon, 45-seat theater, four-lane bowling alley and a four-oven commercial kitchen. There is a lounge whose walls are glass tanks filled with iridescent jellyfish. There is parking for 30 vehicles.

The master bedroom suite — 5,500 square feet, more than twice the average house — has its own office, kitchen and pool.

If *The One* were to sell for even a third of its asking price after it's finished next year, it still would set a U.S. record by about \$30 million.

No one needs such houses, so buyers must be made to want them by creating what Miami's architect, Paul McClean, calls "an emotional connection." Hence, amenities: swings suspended from the ceiling, or a jellyfish room.

And buyers who want such a place want it now, not in the three to four years it takes to build one. So many are sold in move-in condition — completely furnished, decorated and supplied, down to the champagne.

"All the decisions have been made for you. The lifestyle is there for you," McClean says. "All you have to do is move in." As Miami puts it, "The day they buy it, they're ready to have a party."

The market is global. The world has more than 1,500 billionaires, only a third of whom are Americans. Hyland, an expert on Bel Air's history as well as its real estate, says The Four Hundred of the first Gilded Age is now The Four Thousand.

None of Miami's potential buyers seeks a primary or full-time residence. Most already have five or six homes. So The One, like other giga-mansions, will be a pied-à-terre or a place to entertain and impress.

In a metro area with 58,000 homeless, The One will be empty much of the time.

Its isolated hillside perch and skyline views provide an escape from such vertiginous contradictions. McClean, the architect, talks about how his houses separate their occupants from the "day-to-day life of the city."

They also break down the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Trading on the benign climate, McClean skillfully uses glass walls and doors to create a sense of being outside when you're inside. The ironic result is housing for the rich that seems to disappear even as, for the poor, it actually is disappearing.

Lifestyles of the poor and famous

CHAPTER 3

The homelessness issue has achieved a special distinction in Los Angeles. Having increased 50% during the past five years, "it's supplanted traffic as the topic everyone talks about," says Tom Waldman, spokesman for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The homeless are as visible as the Hollywood sign. More than two years after Mayor **Eric Garcetti** declared a "state of emergency," about 41,000 are "unsheltered" — sleeping in cars, outside City Hall, under freeway overpasses. The Los Angeles Times calls it "a human tragedy of extraordinary proportions."

The homeless are blamed for everything from declining ridership on the Metro mass transit system — nearly three in 10 riders said they stopped riding because they felt unsafe — to last year's hepatitis A outbreak. Of 36 cases, 16 were among homeless people.

The city gets about 1,900 requests a month to clean up or remove homeless encampments, nearly three times more than two years ago.

Increasingly desperate officials have designated lots where people who live in their cars can legally park for the night and made 1,400 bins available to the homeless to store their belongings. There are plans to lodge people in trailers on city property.

The ranks of the homeless have been swelled by military veterans, young people emerging from foster homes, refugees from domestic abuse and inmates released under an initiative that made it easier to parole non-violent offenders. About three in 10 homeless people are mentally ill, and two in 10 are addicts.

Housing is too expensive. In California, eight in 10 homes for sale are not affordable on a public school teacher's salary.

Seeds of change

CHAPTER 4

Almost six months after the Bel Air wildfire, in the neighborhood that was evacuated, there's talk of helping the homeless, and of keeping them out.

Robin Greenberg says the homeless won't resettle in the canyons and instead will stay closer to services. She plans to keep going to Skid Row to help: "I like interacting with them. I like it when people say, 'Thank you.' I've brought my grandchildren."

But another longtime resident, Nickie Miner, says that in an arid landscape subject to high winds, homeless camps are a

threat to public safety. And she says some of the homeless don't want help: "They want be survivalists, and they want to do it in our hills." Residents have been going on a social networking site to report homeless sightings. A man was seen walking in the street near traffic, apparently "off his meds." One resident has raised the possibility of deploying a drone to spy on potential camp sites.

The extremes of the Gilded Age were moderated in the Progressive Era that followed. But the seeds of reform — the income tax, antitrust laws, limits on working hours and child labor — were planted in the Gilded Age.

Such seeds may be there today, if we look for them.

Consider the experience of Bel Air's similarly affluent neighbor to the west, Pacific Palisades.

In November 2015, a man in a homeless encampment, using a lit paper bag as a flashlight, started a fire that endangered several homes. Police ejected all the homeless, including Victor Jimenez, who'd lost his home after losing his job as a videographer at a law firm.

But a Pacific Palisades residents' committee privately raised \$125,000 to hire two social workers to connect the homeless — defined by the committee as Palisades "residents" if they'd been in town for six months — with housing and services.

One worker helped Jimenez, 49, get a job and an apartment downtown. He's grateful but under no illusions about what prompted it: "After the fire, the money was there."

Which may be what it takes.

Homelessness has been a sort of conflagration for greater Los Angeles, which also happens to be where the national taxpayer revolt began four decades ago, with Howard Jarvis and Proposition 13.

And yet in 2016 voters approved a \$1.2 billion city bond to build supported housing for the homeless. And last year they passed a county sales tax to fund homeless services.

On the scorched hillsides of Bel Air, the flowers known as "fire followers" are beginning to bloom.

The Hill

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right

By: Mary Plotkin

One issue which never seems to rise to any degree of national visibility is residential housing.

Yes, during local campaigns, you hear much talk about the "homeless crisis" and the need for "affordable housing." But these topics are almost never mentioned or brought up in a presidential campaign or even a U.S. Senate contest.

These supposed "local" matters, for some inexplicable reason, are deemed not "serious" enough for a national discussion.

This makes no sense. A roof over your head should be considered a national necessity. After having enough food to survive, what else could be so important?

On Sunday, The New York Times wrote a story on housing with the subtitle, "The nation's housing policy for the poor may feel like a lottery. Sometimes it is." The story, written by Emily Badger and Jim Wilson, chronicles the hopes of various individuals and families whose only desire is to have a decent and affordable place to live. It forcefully makes the point that the homeowners have a great deal while renters get the shaft. As the piece so starkly says, "the mortgage interest deduction is available to anyone who asks for it. ... For poor renters, there is never enough housing assistance to go around."

The federal government, when it comes to low-income renters, plays a very small role. Yes, there is public housing and vouchers, but that in no way approaches solving the problem or improving the situation.

Kate Hartley, director of San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, is quoted in the Times article. She sums it up with these clear words: "This country does have a national housing policy, and that is that we provide our greatest subsidies to relatively affluent, housed people."

It is pointed out in the article that "homeowners get the mortgage interest deduction, which has cost the government more than these programs for the poor combined."

So, housing policy by default becomes poor renters winning in a housing lottery.

Kirk McClure, a professor of urban planning at the University of Kansas, states that "these last-hope lotteries are a manifestation of the tragic reality ... (that) we have never in America made affordable housing a right."

A country as wealthy as the United States should make affordable housing a right. (Just as health insurance for everyone should be.) I know, that smacks of socialism. Call it what you want. But I make no apologies for wanting to live in a country where having a roof over your head and health insurance is a right, and funding it is a priority.

Some things can rightly be labeled as necessities. Why is it too much to ask the U.S. Congress and this president to face up to the fact that far too many individuals and families are consumed with worry and anxiety about how they are to pay next month's rent.

Rent subsidies and vouchers must be vastly expanded and increased.

To fund this program, institute the Tobin tax, in which every stock transaction is taxed, and put those billions of dollars into a true housing program for the non-well-off, so they can have housing.

We as a nation have become inured to "the homeless." It is a tragic, terrible plight that those who are working have to constantly worry that they won't have a place to call home.

This crisis can be solved. But, first, there must be recognition that the crisis exists.

Why is no U.S. senator given the title the "Affordable Housing Senator?" Why, during U.S. Senate debates, is not one question asked about housing? Why, during the presidential primary season, is the subject never ever mentioned, let alone debated?

Len Simon, head of Simon & Co., a Washington, D.C., company that provides expert advice to city government, does offer a ray of hope. He perceptively points out that two former mayors — John Hickenlooper of Denver, now governor of Colorado, and Mitchell Landrieu of New Orleans — and present mayors **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles and Bill de Blasio of New York City, are on the 2020 list of possible Democratic presidential candidates. One or all of them will surely bring up and, more importantly, advocate for the issue.

One could, perhaps, add a prominent senator and former mayor, Cory Booker of Newark.

It's time that this essential necessity be brought up and discussed, and plans made to rectify it. The unmentionable subject is too important to be relegated to academic journals and local campaigns. It needs to be an integral part of the political life of this nation.

Far too many people are hurting because elected officeholders refuse to pay attention and come up with remedies. The issue of housing cannot be ignored.

This indifference is dangerous to so many.

City Watch

Koreatown Roars in Protest, Demands Public Hearings

By: Grace Yoo

K'TOWN ON ALERT-Koreatown came out ROARING in PROTEST against City Council President Herb Wesson and Mayor **Garcetti's** glib attitude in coming out to Koreatown and announcing that the Temporary Homeless Shelter will be located at 682 S. Vermont -- the northern portion of CD 10 that is represented by Wesson.

As background, this came after Mayor Garcetti shared in his 2018 State of the City address that "every single member" on the 15-member City Council pledged to create a "minimum of 222 new units in neighborhoods across LA." The Mayor even acknowledged in his speech that Council President Herb Wesson would lead the way by stepping up to announce the site.

After the Mayor and Council President's press conference to share the good news about "A Bridge Home," another fantastic concept and name given for the Temporary Homeless Shelters that will be built around the City in each and every council district (per the Mayor), the K'town response most likely shocked and alarmed both men.

Literally, a GRASSROOTS movement occurred overnight -- well maybe over a few days -- with multiple social media sites and websites, change.org, and mom's groups concerned about the idea of a temporary homeless shelter. There was either a lack of information or false information given to the Ktown community residents and stakeholders.

Some folks were told that this shelter would be affordable housing units; others were told it was going to be a tent-like structure; some thought a building was going to go up. The City did a horrible job of informing the Ktown community of what was going on. And this is just the beginning because as other council members across the City identify the

temporary homeless shelter locations, other neighborhoods and communities are being blind-sided. And let's not forget that the City is asking the community to wait to find out about what types of services will be provided for the homeless; it's only letting it be known that these would be welcoming spaces -- open 24 hours, with no restrictions, including no sobriety requirement to stay at the shelters.

"A Bridge Home" sounds like a good start. We live in LA and we know that there is a homelessness crisis. We see it, we hear it, we feel it and know by other senses, too. What is the City afraid of? Why not allow public hearings? I don't mean another repeat of the 2012 Redistricting Hearings, which put on a great show, with dozens of hearings held throughout the City, requesting input from residents. Yet, when it came down to voting, the input from the community was not considered. How do I know this? Because of the 21 Redistricting Commissioners, not a single one -- yes, not ONE COMMISSIONER -- was given all the data that had been collected over dozens of hearings. In fact, they purposely split the 21 Commissioners into three separate groups, so that it was impossible for each commissioner to see or hear input from the various communities throughout the City.

We live in America, not Russia, so how is it that community members are not informed? If you watch the video linked here, you hear Wesson telling the media on camera, "No, no, no, that is there is NOT going to be a public hearing where it relates to this, we are going to put a temporary facility here..." This is the treatment we get in Ktown. I have seen Wesson when he wants to impress and be polite. He's more than cordial. But we in Ktown often get treated like second class citizens. As you can see from the grassroots uproar, this disparate treatment will not be tolerated.

Let's not forget what happens when we rush into things that were supposedly great ideas supported by Wesson and Garcetti...like the half-aked concept of RecycLA which has caused complaints in the tens of thousands, costing some folks an increase of 400% for trash hauling fees. Even Wesson admits that RecycLA was not well-implemented.

In a recent issue of LA Magazine, Wesson's response says it all: "On this one, we did not project accurately what was going to occur. We could have done a deeper dive; we might have looked at doing a pilot project first. We spent a couple of years reviewing it. Sometimes we get things wrong. I'm not ashamed to say that I was wrong on this one."

Need I say more? "A Bridge Home" should be given a DEEP DIVE. Homeless individuals and families need well-thought out solutions, not just photo-ops from folks wanting higher office.

We have a huge homeless crisis that keeps growing. The reason is the City has not prioritized the building of affordable units. It keeps building luxury units, with studios starting at \$2,500. If \$15 an hour-employees work full time, their annual salaries would be approximately \$31,000. And after taxes, it's far less. If you can find a one-bedroom apartment for \$1,800 you would be lucky. But that would still cost \$21,600 a year. LA needs affordable housing, so let's be smart and build affordable units that rent for less than \$1,000 a studio. This would alleviate the growing homeless situation in LA.

Councilmember Wesson had his folks handing out his ideal version of what the Homeless Shelter will look like in Ktown, saying it was "a fact" that there were 400 or so homeless people in Koreatown. Well, until I see the raw data for his conclusions, forgive me if I am skeptical. I have endured more than a decade of Wesson not acting honorably towards the Koreatown community, so excuse me if I don't believe his words.

Actions speak much louder than words. Wesson's "action" has been not listening to residents and stakeholders in this area. Instead, he has tried to drown out voices and opinions he does not like. He has called for the entire City to come to a "rally" he called for this Friday at 8:45 a.m. -- a rally to support temporary homeless shelters. This coincides with Ktown's announced gathering to speak at city council. We are rescheduling our gathering in an abundance of caution, to prevent potential misunderstandings that might arise out of language issues.

If you wish to join the movement to stand up against another fiasco-in-the-making, please go to www.koreatownvoice.com to be notified of future gatherings.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

1 message

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Fri, Mar 1, 2019 at 7:18 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA TIMES: L.A. school board asks property owners to show support with more tax money

SFV BUSINESS JOURNAL: VICA Opposes School Tax Measure

LA TIMES: L.A. Metro will study how to make driving more expensive — in your car or in an Uber

CITY NEWS SERVICE: Metro inching toward taxing cars in LA County, even if you use Uber or Lyft

CURBED LA: Metro directors order congestion pricing study

LA TIMES: ShakeAlertLA users concerned about earthquake app's bugs, crashes and security issues

LAIST: The Amount Of Snow Near Tahoe Could Be Good News For SoCal's Water Supply

LA Times

L.A. school board asks property owners to show support with more tax money

By: Howard Blume

Los Angeles school officials once saw the January teachers' strike as a calamity. Now they realize it created an opportunity.

Angelenos opened their hearts to teachers who talked of poor conditions at schools — and now they will have the chance to open their wallets in a June 4 special election.

The Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday to ask voters to raise their taxes in support of schools — the same voters who backed striking teachers by honking horns, handing out tamales, walking picket lines and keeping kids at home.

The tax measure, if approved, is projected to raise about \$500 million a year, enough to close all or most of the gap between what the district already is spending and the revenue it receives from state and federal sources.

The tax would be calculated at 16 cents per square foot on a property owner's habitable indoor space. It would apply to commercial buildings as well as single-family homes and apartments. There would be exemptions for senior citizens and those relying on disability payments to get by.

The levy, called parcel tax, will go before all voters living within the L.A. Unified School District and would require a two-thirds majority. It would be in effect for 12 years.

To sell the tax, the nation's second-largest school system will assert that the money would do more than merely preserve the status quo.

The approved wording of the tax measure hits on themes teachers raised during the strike, promising that the additional funding would retain and attract quality teachers, reduce class sizes and provide more counseling, nursing and library services as well as support coursework in science, math, preschool, career education and the arts, while also ensuring safe and well-maintained schools. In other words, L.A. Unified wants more resources — on top of a \$7.5-billion budget — to carry out the essence of its work.

Officials said they are ready to make the pitch.

"Education continues to be at the forefront of what working people want to invest in," said school board President Monica Garcia. "Our job is to figure out: Can we play offense?"

"Many people judge our schools: 'You waste money and the kids are loud,'" said board member Richard Vladovic. "You don't know about the million miracles that occur in our schools every day."

"The one thing we don't want to do is fail," said board member George McKenna. The district, he said, must go "all out" in its campaign.

An analysis provided by the office of L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti** says half of L.A. Unified homeowners would pay less than \$235 a year. Most L.A. Unified homeowners would pay \$100 to \$450 a year. Garcetti supports the tax.

"There's no higher priority for me and for this region than improving the quality of public education," the mayor said Thursday. "We need to do it for our kids. We need to do it for our economy. We need to do it for our future."

He emphasized the power of the walkout: "We start from a very strong base because there is the highest awareness of the needs of our schools that I've experienced in my adult life as a result of the strike and an increased focus nationally on public education."

The tax measure came together quickly after results were compiled from a poll commissioned by L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner in the wake of the six-day action by members of United Teachers Los Angeles. The poll indicated growth in support for increased funding of public education.

But pollsters also warned that the strike effect could fade, which prompted officials to place the tax increase on the June ballot rather than wait for November or even next year. The sooner the money could be approved, officials said, the sooner it could flow to the schools. The deadline for getting on the June ballot is the end of next week.

At a special board meeting Thursday, speakers raised various concerns.

Advocates of charter schools want a proportionate share of proceeds for these privately operated, publicly funded campuses.

"Public charter school students are entitled to the same level and quality of educational services," said Roxann Nazario, who has a child at a charter in the San Fernando Valley. "I ask that you stand for all kids."

Cassy Horton, an official with the California Charter Schools Assn., objected to vague draft language that said money would be distributed to charters "fairly." Charters serve nearly 20% of district students and should expect about \$100 million of an annual \$500-million levy, she said.

The final version struck out "fairly."

But downtown resident Isaac Abdul Haqq took the opposite view.

"We don't want our tax dollars going to the charter industry," he said. "This has just been thrust upon us without any real community input."

The teachers union during the strike spoke out for a cap on new charters, which compete with L.A. Unified for students.

Other speakers wanted the tax to end sooner or called for stronger accountability. A hospital industry representative said hospitals should be exempted. The Chamber of Commerce wanted a flat tax per property.

Board members listened but made no further changes, saying that the measure already incorporated various compromises and that time was of the essence.

"This will make things better and I'll take better," board member Nick Melvoin said.

Also covered by: Telemundo

San Fernando Valley Business Journal VICA Opposes School Tax Measure

By: Mark Madler

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association has come out against a June ballot measure for a parcel tax to raise money for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The Van Nuys business advocacy group opposes the tax because there is no plan on how the money will be spent and some of the exemptions granted to not pay the tax.

"We are unhappy it is being rammed through," VICA President Stuart Waldman told the Business Journal. "There was no opportunity for discussion or negotiation."

The school board wanted to get the measure on the June ballot rather than in November to "ride on the coattails of the positive feelings" from the six-day teachers strike in early January, Waldman said.

"That is bad way to do policy," he added.

The school district board on Thursday had unanimously approved placing for voter approval a new annual assessment of 16 cents per square foot on property owners' indoor space. It is projected to raise about \$500 million a year for the 12-year life of the tax.

That amount is 10 times the amount of any other parcel tax per square foot that has been passed, Waldman said.

For example, Measure A, passed by Los Angeles County voters in November 2016, was for a parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot to fund parks, recreation centers and water conservation projects.

VICA also did not like the number of exceptions. Senior citizens and those who rely on disability payments would not have to pay the tax. That would mean that homeowners in wealthy areas 65 years or older would not pay, Waldman said.

Additionally, the school district has not made a good faith effort to show that they can spend the money well, Waldman continued.

"We don't know how the money is going to be spent," he added. "We don't know how it is going to make L.A. Unified better. There is no plan."

Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** came out in favor of the parcel tax, saying that he was grateful to the school board for giving city residents an opportunity to bring to life the new contract between the teachers and school district in a way that can transform students' lives.

"A free and excellent public education is the right of every child — and when thousands of Angelenos took to the streets in support of students and teachers last month, it was because we all agree on a fundamental truth: we have to give our children every possible resource to succeed in the classroom and take their knowledge into the world," Garcetti said in a statement.

LA Times

L.A. Metro will study how to make driving more expensive — in your car or in an Uber

By: Laura Nelson

In an attempt to tame traffic, Los Angeles County transportation officials Thursday took their biggest steps yet toward making driving in the region more expensive, approving studies on how to impose more tolls, taxes or other fees on private driving and ride-hailing trips.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority voted unanimously to move forward with the region's first comprehensive analysis of congestion pricing. One study will analyze the effects on traffic if drivers were charged a per-mile tax or an entry fee to certain neighborhoods, or if more carpool lanes were converted to toll lanes.

Another study will detail how many trips are made by Uber and Lyft, what effect the ubiquitous for-hire cars have on traffic congestion, and whether adding a fee could shift some riders toward carpooling or public transit.

That same study also will examine whether to levy a fee on shared bicycles, electric scooters and other devices. Agency estimates show that charging \$1 a day for each device, regardless of the number of trips, could collect \$580 million over a decade.

The proposals to charge more to drive, bike or scoot in the region were introduced as a way to raise funds for transportation projects before the 2028 Olympic Games. But Metro directors voted Thursday to separate those goals.

"This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue," Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** said. "This is an effort that can't be and shouldn't be rushed. That isn't to say that we want to go slow and kill this thing off. But we have to be deliberate."

Each study will take a year to two years and will examine how a fee structure could affect traffic flow, transit ridership and low-income commuters. No new fees would be imposed until the studies are finished, officials said.

If both proposals are approved, Metro would launch a pilot program of congestion pricing and a tax on Uber and Lyft at the same time, officials said.

Imposing more tolls would offer a smoother drive for those who choose to pay, officials say. Getting more drivers off the road could free space to speed up bus service, while the billions of dollars in revenue could fund a vast expansion of the transit network. Metro said.

Early critics of the congestion pricing proposal have said additional fees could be a burden for low-income households that spend a significant share of their monthly income on transportation.

"What's prohibitively expensive for someone of limited means is a drop in the bucket for the affluent," Eric Preven, who serves on the Studio City Neighborhood Council, said during Thursday's meeting.

But addressing concerns about low-income households does not apply only to drivers, said Los Angeles City Councilman and Metro director Paul Krekorian. Buses sit in the same traffic that private cars do, making service slower and less reliable, and inconveniencing some of L.A. County's poorest residents, he said.

"The assumption often is, when we talk about congestion pricing, that we need to be concerned about car-dependent people," Krekorian said. "The truth is, a hugely disproportionate percentage of our riders are transit dependent."

Metro's bus riders have a median household income of less than \$18,000, and four out of five passengers have no access to a car. Metro has argued that charging drivers more to use freeways and streets would free up space for buses to run faster, potentially improving their efficiency.

A modest form of congestion pricing is already in place on the 110 and 10 freeways, where drivers who are alone in their cars can pay by the mile to use carpool lanes. As traffic congestion in the lanes rises, so do the tolls — to a maximum of \$20 for a one-way trip.

To make the charges palatable to drivers, experts say any congestion pricing scheme must be coupled with frequent, reliable public transportation, so people don't feel as though they're being pushed out of their cars with no other options.

Metro has toyed with the possibility of using the revenue from a congestion fee to expand transit and further subsidize fares, making using the service much cheaper or even free. Right now, taxes cover about 80% of the system's operating costs.

The proposal to tax Uber and Lyft dismayed many Angelenos, who have become reliant on the vehicles that cost far less than in other major U.S. cities. In Los Angeles, a rider using UberX would pay \$11 or more for a 5-mile ride starting in downtown. In Manhattan in New York, the same ride costs more than twice as much.

That low price point is one reason that the ride-hailing companies, once heralded as possible partners for transit agencies, have instead become fierce competition. In some urban areas, Uber and Lyft have dramatically increased congestion, studies show.

A recent study of travel patterns in major U.S. cities found that 60% of customers would have walked, biked or taken transit — or just stayed home — if Uber and Lyft had not been available. San Francisco found that the companies create up to 26% of traffic during rush hour in the city's most congested areas.

The rise of Uber and Lyft is one of many factors contributing to L.A.'s plummeting transit ridership, which has fallen 20% in the last five years despite the billions of dollars spent on new rail lines. Ridership is at its lowest level in more than a decade, driven by a shift to driving instead of using Metro's sprawling bus and rail network.

Metro officials have said that they could smooth out gridlock during rush hour by charging a premium fee to drive at certain times of day or in certain areas. That could encourage people to shift their commute times or switch to transit or carpooling, they said.

If Metro pursues that policy, officials should work with major employers to encourage more flexible start times and telecommuting, easing pressure on workers who face long commutes and rigid work schedules, said Metro director and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

"Most people are on the road because they have to be somewhere at a specific time," Hahn said. "I'm not sure that many people have the luxury of saying, 'I'll wait an hour before I get in my car.'"

City News Service

Metro inching toward taxing cars in LA County, even if you use Uber or Lyft

The Metro Board of Directors agreed unanimously Thursday to move forward with two feasibility studies on raising the cost of either driving in a vehicle or riding in an Uber or Lyft in Los Angeles County.

Congestion pricing and levying a tax on companies like Uber and Lyft — referred to as transportation network company rides — are steps other jurisdictions have undertaken, according to Metro staff reports, which noted that Chicago levies a tax of 67 cents per ride-hailing trip, and congestion pricing has been successful in other cities, including Stockholm.

Congestion pricing is likely to get a lot of attention and be a polarizing idea because it could have a wide impact on the daily commutes of millions of residents. The pricing plan could involve a number of methods, including taxing drivers based on the number of miles they travel, or charging a fee for motorists to enter certain neighborhoods — such as creating a boundary around a central district and then charging vehicles to cross that boundary.

Congestion pricing is one method the board is considering to help fund the “28 by ‘28” initiative that aims to complete 28 key road, transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Many of the projects already are scheduled to be finished by 2028, but some would need accelerated funding to make the goal.

Metro Board member and Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** said he hoped the discussions on the Olympics and congestion pricing could be kept separate.

“I speak about both of these, but I want to be clear that my private and public conversations have mirrored that these should be parallel, independent efforts, that folks think that ‘28 by ‘28’ is about congestion pricing, or congestion pricing is about that,” Garcetti said. “These are distinct efforts and it’s important that our constituents understand that. They’re both too important, they’re both too difficult, they’re both too critical to collapse them together.”

Metro board member and Inglewood Mayor James Butts expressed some hesitation at the idea of a tax on ride-hailing trips, as it could impact visitor access to the large entertainment venues in his city, which includes The Forum, a new NFL stadium under construction and a proposed arena for the Los Angeles Clippers. He also said the Metro tax may pre-empt cities in the county from regulating Uber and Lyft rides.

“There may be an unintended consequence that we haven’t thought out, and I just want to put that out for the board to think and consider when we bring this back,” Butts said.

According to a Metro staff report, the ride-hailing trip tax could discourage single-use rides and, instead encourage pooled rides and mode shift to transit services, while the revenues could be “re-invested to improve the quality, reliability, safety and convenience of transit services and walking and biking access.”

For congestion pricing, a Metro staff report said that it “can be a method of dramatically improving equity, mobility, and environmental outcomes to achieve Metro’s strategic goals in the near-term, while also providing revenues for long-term capital projects.”

Also covered by: NBC Los Angeles, Telemundo, Law360

Curbed LA

Metro directors order congestion pricing study

By: Elijah Chiland

Metro’s Board of Directors agreed to move forward Thursday with a study on congestion pricing, which would impose fees on drivers with the aim of reducing traffic on Los Angeles roads.

The study, expected to be complete within the next two years, will evaluate different pricing methods, including a blanket per-mile charge and tolls in specific areas that would go up or down depending on traffic levels.

Metro CEO Phil Washington has suggested that new fees could be used to fund the agency’s plan to build 28 new projects by the 2028 Olympics—as well as free fares on trains and buses.

But on Thursday, Metro’s board members sought to distance the congestion pricing study from the “Twenty-eight by 28” initiative, which Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** argued could be funded through means other than fees on drivers.

“This has to be about congestion relief, not revenue,” said Garcetti, who authored a motion calling for a study of both congestion pricing and its impact on low-income drivers, as well as other residents likely to be affected by such a policy.

Though Garcetti’s motion—co-authored by Inglewood Mayor James Butts and county supervisors Hilda Solis, Sheila Kuehl, and Janice Hahn—was unanimously approved by the board, some members expressed doubts about the viability of congestion pricing in Los Angeles.

Transportation analysts argue that pricing policies dissuade drivers from using roads during peak commuting hours, allowing traffic to flow at more reasonable speeds. But Hahn questioned whether drivers would be able to avoid traveling at these times, due to inflexible work and school schedules.

She said concerns like these will have to be addressed before the board takes action on any future proposals to levy fees on drivers.

"What we're doing today is approving the feasibility study," Hahn said. "We want to see what that looks like before we move forward."

Garcetti was more optimistic about the potential of congestion pricing, but stressed that concerns about equity would need to be resolved.

"I think the time is right; I think the idea is right," he said, before adding, "we need to do this the right way."

Metro staffers will report back to the board on the status of the study in April.

LA Times

ShakeAlertLA users concerned about earthquake app's bugs, crashes and security issues

By: Rong-Gong Lin II

Los Angeles' earthquake early warning app has won buzz in recent weeks, as it's the first public app of its kind in the United States that aims to warn people seconds before shaking arrives from an earthquake.

It hasn't been truly tested yet: There has been no significant earthquake in the Los Angeles region since the app was published New Year's Eve. But lots of people are interested — ShakeAlertLA has been downloaded more than 400,000 times: 327,000 on iOS and 96,000 on Android.

But among users who commented on the app, some are concerned about privacy and crashes and expressed concerns that the app was rushed out too early.

So far, the app has received 2.5 out of 5 stars on Apple's App Store and 3.6 out of 5 stars in the Google Play Store. Some are frustrated that the app works only for users physically present in Los Angeles County.

Others have celebrated ShakeAlertLA, saying they believe earthquake warnings will save lives, giving people time to act and take cover before shaking arrives.

When he introduced the app, Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti** acknowledged that it wasn't perfect and that there were still bugs in the software. The city's app, built under a contract with AT&T, gets information from a separate earthquake early warning system operated by the U.S. Geological Survey. The USGS system, called ShakeAlert, is still in its early phases, and lots of testing still needs to happen.

Garcetti wanted to make good on an earlier pledge he made to get the app in the hands of Angelenos by the end of 2018. He has said it was important to get the app out there publicly sooner rather than later, even if it meant the early version of the app was less than perfect.

Here's a rundown of the complaints and flaws about the app, and the response from the city:

Q: Why does the app require the city to constantly know the location of the phone?

A: By design, the app needs to know where a user is to warn how intense the shaking will be before it arrives; for example, an earthquake that begins off the coast of Newport Beach would produce far stronger shaking in Long Beach than it would in the San Fernando Valley.

In the 1994 Northridge earthquake, a magnitude 6.7 temblor, people in Northridge felt violent shaking of intensity 9 on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale, meaning damage was severe. Anaheim got intensity 6 shaking, which would generally produce only slight damage.

Q: Does the city store the data of all app users?

A: The city receives information about a user's whereabouts and assigns the device to a broader geographical hexagon, which has about a 5-mile radius. Phones in that area will receive an alert based on that location.

The city does not keep historical records of a device's location, which are erased once a user moves outside that polygon.

Users are not asked to provide their phone number or name to use the app.

Q: Some users reported crashes soon after the app was made available in early January. What gives?

A: Early versions contained a programming error for iOS users outside Los Angeles County that caused a crash as soon as the app was opened. The flaw has been fixed.

Q: Any other problems?

A: A college student voiced some concerns with portions of test code related to ShakeAlertLA that had been posted weeks earlier.

Q: What did he find?

A: Alex Garcia, a UC San Diego senior in computer programming and native of Whittier, found some password information that accompanied portions of test code erroneously uploaded to GitHub and made public. GitHub is an online repository where computer programs are stored, and users of the site are invited to review code and provide feedback to find bugs and offer authors advice.

Q: Was it problematic?

A: There were a couple of accidental disclosures when the test code was erroneously uploaded and published.

First, a password was published that provided internal access to USGS notifications about an earthquake's occurrence and location. The USGS was alerted, and the compromised account was suspended.

Another problem was the disclosure of a password that offered access to a city test server that showed the whereabouts of roughly 120,000 imaginary devices conjured up by programmers for a test.

No user data was compromised, but there was an acknowledgement that human errors were made, and officials are making efforts to avoid mistaken releases of passwords.

Q: What was the USGS' reaction to the city's mistake?

USGS scientist Robert de Groot said in a statement that the compromised account was a "read-only" account, meaning the city could only read the alerts pushed out from a USGS server but not create false data or maliciously send out a fake earthquake warning through the federal government's system.

The USGS system "employs the highest security standards, including secure public-facing servers and encrypted data streams," De Groot said. "The USGS provides ongoing guidance to optimize the performance of ShakeAlert delivery products that are developed by others, like mass-alerting mobile apps. However, it is the responsibility of the partner to develop and maintain those products."

Q: Does the ShakeAlertLA app offer an estimate of how many seconds will elapse before shaking arrives?

A: Not in its current version. There's concern that shaking could arrive earlier or later than the computer's estimate. Given the uncertainty, the countdown feature is not now available.

Q: How many people have deleted the app after downloading it?

A: Of the 96,000 times the app has been downloaded on the Android system, it has been deleted from 15,000 devices. (Similar data for iOS devices aren't available.) That means the deletion rate is about 16%. The overall deletion rate for an app after 30 days is 28%, according to AppsFlyer, a San Francisco mobile marketing company.

Q: Why does the app only work inside Los Angeles County?

A: ShakeAlertLA was created by the city to ensure that City Hall, not just private companies, could control how earthquake warnings are distributed to the public. It was funded with \$43,000 from a nonprofit established by Garcetti, called the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles, and \$260,000 from the nonprofit Annenberg Foundation. So its ambitions were set early on to focus on the L.A. area.

Q: Will apps be made available for other parts of California?

A: It'll just be a matter of time. A private company, Santa Monica-based Early Warning Labs, has its own QuakeAlert app in development, and plans to soon offer it to 100,000 test users, who may include people outside of L.A. County.

Other officials have sought more information about Los Angeles' app, including authorities in Orange, San Diego and Ventura counties; San Francisco; Seattle; the state of Washington; the water and electricity utility of Eugene, Ore.; and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Q: Why not make the app available to everyone?

A: Adding too many people to receive alerts could suddenly slow down the delivery of the messages, and it's important for researchers to identify problems and fix them.

Q: Why not make the app available to all cellphone users through Amber Alert-style text messages?

A: State officials will soon conduct a test to see whether Amber Alert-style text messages are quick enough to be useful for earthquake early warnings.

A test warning is scheduled to be sent March 27 by text message to Oakland's Lakeside neighborhood, which has a daytime population of 40,000 people and includes government employees.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services will be asking those in the area to fill out a survey on exactly when they receive the alert. They'll be asked to look at a precise clock on a computer screen while they wait for the text message. If the test shows it might be useful for some users, state officials might explore sending quake warnings through text messages.

It has long been thought that the current U.S. cellphone network is probably too slow to make earthquake warnings useful through text message. A recent National Wireless Emergency Alert System test showed that the average delay in users receiving a text message was about 22 seconds. A rollout of fifth-generation, or 5G, cellular technology could help, but that could take years.

Q: What's the current delay between the time an alert is issued and when it arrives on a cellphone?

A: In simulations, there's a delay of fewer than two seconds between the time an alert is issued and when it arrives on a ShakeAlertLA-equipped cellphone.

Q: The mayor said ShakeAlertLA's computer programming code will be "open source," meaning the code will be made public for other cities to use and for other programmers to scour for bugs and suggest improvements. It's not public right now. Will it be?

A: Yes, there are plans for the city to release that. Before that's done, AT&T and the city will have cybersecurity teams do an extra check to ensure they don't mistakenly release private information.

Q: There's a page on the app that says, "View recent earthquakes," but nothing shows up. Is it working?

A: The interface is a bit confusing right now — the key suggests that there would be a list of earthquakes of all magnitudes, but the system right now is set up to only list earthquakes of at least magnitude 5 in the Greater L.A. region. None have occurred since New Year's Eve.

A future version of the app will show earthquakes of magnitude 3 or greater in the United States for either the previous 30 days or the last 300 seismic events exceeding that threshold.

Q: Why does the map on viewing recent earthquakes sometimes default to a view focusing on Western Europe instead of L.A.?

A: The glitch should be resolved in a future version.

Q: When I click on "earthquake alert map," all I see is my location.

A: The display is a bit confusing when there's no active earthquake alert. The city is working on making the interface clearer, which would offer users an example of what an alert would look like.

Q: Why is the "find a shelter" page blank?

A: The city isn't pre-publishing shelter sites, as they will depend on the earthquake. Shaking more tightly focused on the San Fernando Valley, for instance, may not require shelters to open in San Pedro.

LAist

The Amount Of Snow Near Tahoe Could Be Good News For SoCal's Water Supply

By: Jessica Ogilvie

The snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountain range is up to a heartening 153 percent of average, according to a report by California's Department of Water Resources. In a measurement taken today, there were 113 inches of snow depth near Seirra-at-Tahoe

The measurement provides valuable insight into water resources in the state — Southern California gets approximately one-third of its water from the Sierra Nevadas. It's also a marked improvement from this time last year, when snow levels came in at around 13.5 inches, or 27 percent of the average following years of draught.

Water from the Sierra Nevadas is collected in SoCal after the flow from melted snow is channeled south on the 200-mile Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Sometimes that flow can pose a risk to homes, roads, or the aqueduct itself. When the snowpack clocked in at 174 percent of normal in February of 2017, L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti** responded by declaring an emergency over concerns about flooding and debris.

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Cate Hurley | Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
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Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 3:38 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]> Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI!

Why LA's public design matters: An interviews with Christopher Hawthorne, the city's first chief design officer
Meet LA's New Design Czar (LINK ONLY)

Meet LA's first chief design officer

Julius Caesar Takes Over City Hall

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LA high school kids speak to mayor about gun violence

19 students from across LA meet with mayor, suggest citywide gun reform campaign

Student Walkouts Planned Across LA To Honor Victims 1 Month After Stoneman Douglas High Shooting

Garcetti still struggling to expand the number of female firefighters

LA legislators can block housing projects for homeless people simply by withholding a key letter

Curbed

Why LA's public design matters: An interviews with Christopher Hawthorne, the city's first chief design officer

By Alissa Walker

Next month, Christopher Hawthorne will start work as the city's first chief design officer, leaving his role as the Los Angeles Times architecture critic. An important part of his job will be to guide and improve the design in the city's public realm—an area where, historically, LA has not excelled.

Hawthorne's 13 years of writing about the city certainly deems him an expert on what makes a successful LA design project—including how those projects have been received by their intended audiences. But how will Hawthorne shift from offering a critical take on LA's newest architectural works to championing the creation of new works for the city? And what exactly can a chief design officer do when it comes to addressing some of the city's thorniest challenges, like homelessness and transportation?

I talked to Hawthorne about why he wanted to work for Mayor Eric Garcetti, how the city's sidewalks will be in many ways the heart of his focus, and why he sees the 2028 Olympics as a "nearly perfect" time frame for getting things done.

So how does this work, Mayor Garcetti calls you up one day and is like, "Hey, Chris, LA needs you!"

Yes, the call came through on the bright red City Hall hotline on my desk. And it was startling because it had never rung before and after 13 years was getting dusty.

In reality it was something that evolved over time. When the mayor joined me for an onstage conversation at Occidental College after he was reelected, he talked about this role in a broad way and what it might accomplish.

"The mayor is interested in how a smart approach to design can not only improve the architecture and public realm but also be a unifying force in leveraging investments in new housing and new transit."

His second term is unusually long—five-and-a-half years—because of a change in the election calendar. That means he will be in office full almost a full decade at a time of pretty significant transformation in the built environment in Los Angeles. He concluded that he wanted to create a full-time position of chief design officer, and told me what it would entail, then asked me if I wanted to do it.

I took some time to make up my mind officially, mostly because I love the job I have now, but I knew pretty much right away it was something I wanted to try. That's in large part because Mayor Garcetti is unusually knowledgeable about and genuinely interested in these issues. That suggested to me that we'd have a chance to try some intriguing things. I must say I'm intrigued with the title mostly because I can't think of any other U.S. city that has something called a chief design officer.

Other cities have pursued similar goals in a range of ways. There's been an Urban Design Studio in the planning department, as you know, and it's now getting renewed energy, which is great. When Michael Bloomberg was mayor of New York he empowered some of his commissioners, like Janette Sadik-Khan in transportation, to think boldly about the intersection of their departments with urban design.

Well before that, another New York mayor, John Lindsay, made urban design a major priority, as I noted in my recent obituary of Richard Weinstein, who worked for Lindsay and was later architecture dean at UCLA. In 2001, Lee Bey went from architecture critic at the Chicago Sun-Times to the post of deputy chief of staff for planning and design under Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. So there are some precedents, if not a huge number.

Hawthorne interviews Mayor Eric Garcetti during a 3rd LA event for Occidental College in March 2017. After this event they discussed the possibility for a role in City Hall. Marc Campos/Occidental College

I'm also interested in the fact that the mayor chose someone for this role who is not a city planner or architect.

almost been acting as a translator between these practitioners and the general public, helping regular people understand the value of what designers are trying to do. Is that part of your role for the city, do you think?

I think so, yes. The mayor is interested in how a smart approach to design can not only improve the architecture and public realm but also be a unifying force in leveraging investments in new housing and new transit, so that they complement one another and are as efficient as possible, and in boosting a larger civic conversation about architecture and design. Communicating across various departments and agencies on the one hand and between City Hall and the public on the other—both will be a significant part of the job.

On the other hand, you've spent almost 15 years being extremely critical of some people's work who you will now have to be working closely with. Do you worry some conversations will begin, "So, about that column in 2010..."

That was already an occupational hazard for me, seeing architects out in the world who remember some of my pieces without much fondness. It's something every critic has to deal with, so that won't be entirely new for me. I think over time I demonstrated—even to the architects whose work I didn't always rave about—that I was committed to the city, to understanding its history, and to improving the level of architecture here.

Probably the biggest challenge facing the city right now is the fact that we have not built enough affordable places for the residents of this city to live. How do you see your role addressing the housing crisis?

Not only are housing and homelessness at the top of the list in terms of the city's challenges, in some ways they are the list right now. I don't know that too many big issues are separate from the housing conversation at the moment.

The mayor is working to get all the housing built that we can—and I say that appreciating the political complexities of ramping up housing production, having covered this subject in some depth over the years. I'm eager to play whatever role in that effort will be most effective, whether it's the immediate question of what the new housing for the formerly homeless will look like and where and how quickly it can be built, or the broader issue of expanding the housing stock as a whole. We need to explore every reasonable idea related to these issues.

In a 2014 column Hawthorne wrote that One Santa Fe, designed by Michael Maltzan, was an example of a densifying city, which "takes the generic stuff of a typical LA apartment building—a wood frame slathered in white stucco and lifted above a concrete parking deck—and expands it dramatically to urban scale." John Sequeira

You've been a champion of looking at streets and sidewalks as an increasingly important part of LA's built environment. Should we look for some big changes to the way we design and use these places in the future?

This is why I'm glad you're the one doing this Q&A, because you and I both care about this stuff to a ridiculous and granular degree! The central focus of my work will be the public realm, and the heart of the public realm in all sorts of ways is the sidewalk.

I've been thinking a lot about how much the threshold between public space and the architecture of the city is in flux right now. After many decades of designing LA buildings where the back door, facing the parking lot, was the de facto main entrance, we're rediscovering the front door again. If you arrive at a destination on foot, on a bike, via transit or via Lyft or Uber, as opposed to driving yourself, you're likely to enter through the front. I'm really interested in the urban-design and architectural implications of that for the sidewalk, the front stoop, the whole choreography of arrival and its relationship to mobility and pedestrian culture.

Here's another example: many big LA intersections are anchored on one or more corners by gas stations, which doesn't always produce a great pedestrian or urban experience. But what happens as electric vehicles continue to gain traction and demand for gas falls away? How can we re-imagine how those intersections and the sidewalks turning those corners operate? That's a technological and environmental story but also very much an urban-design one and one I'm already thinking about. The same is true for the longer-term future of parking structures. And so on.

In a 2012 review, Hawthorne heavily criticized Metro's new Expo Line station design, calling it "not just weak but somehow aggressively banal." UCL Institute of Education

What you've just said about getting rid of gas stations is reminding me that some of the mayor's more progressive initiatives, like Vision Zero, have gotten pushback from people who believe the city is trying to take away their cars, which you've written about as well. Do you think your role can help show wary Angelenos the benefits of these big ideas?

To be clear, I'm not saying we should get rid of gas stations by some kind of fiat. But they may well disappear as technology evolves. And yes, there is pushback against a number of recent and proposed changes to the cityscape.

To a certain degree that's just part of politics. But it's more intense here, I think, because the benefits of post-war LA—what I've referred to as the Second Los Angeles—were so remarkable and in certain ways singular. People had the opportunity to live in a globally important, culturally rich city while also having a rare amount of literal and metaphorical elbow room, room to operate, or disappear—with a house and a garden and a car in the garage that, once upon a time, could take them across the region in half an hour.

To put it mildly, that Los Angeles doesn't present a sustainable model for the future, but people are understandably keen in some cases to protect it, or elements of it. Maybe that was the city they grew up in, or the one that was so appealing that it was responsible for drawing them to California in the first place.

Speaking of sustainability and the future, we've got something pretty unique for a city with the Olympics coming here, it's like this 10-year deadline for getting projects done. The mayor has set some transit-building goals for 2028, what other projects should use the Olympics as this benchmark?

In some ways I think of the ten-year Olympic deadline as a nearly perfect time frame. It's long enough that we can imagine getting some ambitious things done between now and then, but not so far away that it begins to seem distant to the point of abstraction.

"The central focus of my work will be the public realm, and the heart of the public realm in all sorts of ways is the sidewalk."

At the same time, there's no reason to force projects into that timeline when it doesn't make sense. For a city so closely

associated with futurism and a forward-looking design attitude, L.A. has not always been great at discussing its future self (or selves). I still laugh when I think about some of the emails I used to get when I'd write about a subway line that was due to open in 20 or 30 years. People would say, "How absurd! I'll be dead!" Yes—and other people will be living here and those people will need to get around. And they will be grateful that we raised the money for a subway and got it built while we were around. That's how planning works. That's how cities work!

I think of the Olympic deadline more as a way to concentrate the attention of the city and think and talk about where we want to be in ten years and how we might get there; that's a rare opportunity for any big city and we shouldn't waste it. The Olympics are also troubling to some people who are worried they will lead to displacement in underserved communities. As a white male who hails from Berkeley, how will you make sure that your decisions are as diverse and inclusive as the people they're intended to serve?

I think my work has shown a concern for these issues that dates back to my arrival at the Times in 2004. One thing I tried to make clear in the piece I wrote announcing that I was leaving is how much I admire the approach taken by Tamika Butler, executive director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. It involves beginning any public-design project by listening to residents and finding out what their most pressing needs and hopes are. Sometimes she learns a park is last thing they need—and she's okay with that.

I also appreciate what Allison Arieff said in the introduction to a new book of essays, *The Future of Public Space*: "It once seemed obvious, easy even: add public space, improve quality of life. But it's not so simple anymore."

These are complex issues; in the midst of a raging housing crisis, people are rightly concerned about the connection between investment in neighborhoods and the fate of longtime residents. You can't be working on urban design in Los Angeles without acknowledging those concerns.

Hawthorne says the 2028 Olympics provides a deadline for the completion of some public design projects—but also challenges to ensure longtime residents don't feel marginalized. Official LA 2024 Bid Book

You're leaving the LA Times at a historic moment. But you're going to leave before they have the architecture critic position filled, meaning our paper of record will be unmoored, at least from a design criticism perspective. Do you think there's any chance they won't fill the role?

I'm encouraged by everything we've heard from Patrick Soon-Shiong, the incoming owner. He seems to be approaching the job with real thoughtfulness. My sense is that he intends to invest in the paper and give the newsroom more resources. I can't say for sure what will happen with my position, but my expectation is that they'll fill the job.

What should the LA Times consider when picking your successor?

I hope they'll allow somebody to put a distinct and individual stamp on the position. That has been the greatest privilege of the job for me—not simply the platform, but the fact that my editors, from the start and consistently throughout the time I've been here, have allowed me to define the job in a broad but also very personal way. And a way that was distinct from my predecessor's approach.

That's one of the reasons I would put our group of critics up there with any paper in the country. Jonathan Gold's critical voice is very different from Justin Chang's or Lorraine Ali's or Christopher Knight's, and they all rank among the very best at what they do. There's no expectation that we all conform to some institutional Spring Street style. Or think how much great work Carolina Miranda has done since joining the paper and how distinct her voice as a writer is.

That would be my only suggestion—hire somebody talented and give that person the freedom to shape the job. And I'm confident that's what will happen, especially because Mary McNamara, a critic herself and a Pulitzer winner for criticism, is in charge of the paper's arts and entertainment coverage.

KPCC

Meet LA's first chief design officer

By Susan Carpenter

Christopher Hawthorne has long been the architecture critic for the Los Angeles Times. But on Monday, he announced he'll be leaving the paper to take on a new role. Starting next month, Hawthorne will be L.A.'s first chief design officer. Mayor Eric Garcetti personally tapped him for the job.

Christopher Hawthorne joined Take Two to talk about his new position navigating L.A. toward its post-suburban future. The Chief Designer Officer job, explained

It's a big city, so there's a lot to think about in terms of design and architecture. In certain ways the job will resemble other chief jobs in Mayor Garcetti's administration -- thinking across several departments in coordination with other agencies about these issues. In my case, it's thinking about the public realm chiefly, so civic architecture in terms of public space. L.A. is really investing in the public realm in new ways with transit, housing, parks. There's a lot of money already in hand or approved by voters. My job more than anything will be thinking how to bring a unified vision to spend that money most efficiently.

How the upcoming Olympics might affect L.A. design

The design of the '84 Olympics, that scaffolding and color scheme, all those things epitomized L.A. and the character and optimism of L.A. in the '80s. I look to that as a model all the time as a design that was really efficient and pragmatic at the time ... I look at that as a quintessential L.A. design: exuberance, optimism and multiculturalism but also that deadline, having the Olympics be 10 years away, that was one of the reasons I was attracted to the job.

How much of L.A. could be changed by the 2028 Olympics

Mayor Garcetti is one of the main reasons I took the job. He is genuinely interested and knowledgeable about these issues. He cares about them a lot and knows something about them. There's the 10-year deadline for the Olympics and his second term -- he has a 5-1/2-year second term -- so there are a couple deadlines there to think about what we can do. It's a wide canvas. We have to be thinking of different time frames. The homeless and housing crisis, we have to

move immediately on that front. Other things will be medium and longer term, but 10 years is long enough to think about getting things executed in time for LA showing itself to the world.

L.A. is undergoing a major transformation

L.A., like a lot of cities post war, invested in the private realm -- the freeways, single-family houses and a kind of suburban idea of L.A. at this giant metropolitan scale. We've run out of room to sprawl at the edges, and we need to retrofit some spaces that were closed off to public access. The L.A. River is the clearest example. Not only did we channelize the river to prevent flooding but closed off the river as a public entity... We're trying to retrofit a space like that so it fulfills flood control responsibilities but also reopen it to public access in a city that has been really park poor. We have great public spaces here, but they're largely along the periphery, the beaches, Griffith Park. They're not accessible to large parts of the city.

Downtown News

Julius Caesar Takes Over City Hall

By Nicholas Slayton

In Act 3 of Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare gave Mark Antony the line, "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war." In Downtown Los Angeles this week, you can twist that to, "Cry havoc and let slip the actors in City Hall."

That's because the venerable Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles is staging a reading of the epic political tragedy in the city's governmental headquarters at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 18. It takes place just three days after the Ides of March. The reading, titled Julius Caesar in City Hall, will be held in the Board of Public Works room. Admission and parking are free, but advance reservations are required.

The show kicks off City West-based Shakespeare Center's 2018 season, which is focused on "Shakespeare's warrior," according to company Executive Artistic Director Ben Donenberg.

"We wanted to start with Julius Caesar and make it as close to the Ides of March as we could," Donenberg said. "City Hall was available on Sunday night, so we grabbed it."

There's a secondary tie: Twenty years ago, Shakespeare Center, as part of its then regular summer presentation of free Shakespeare in Downtown, did a full production of Julius Caesar on the steps of City Hall.

Donenberg said First District City Councilman Gil Cedillo is sponsoring the reading, and helped the Shakespeare Center get the location in City Hall.

Louis Fantasia is directing the reading and the cast includes several prominent actors, among them Armin Shimerman ("Star Trek: Deep Space Nine") as Caesar, Joe Spano ("NCIS") as Brutus and Mira Furlan ("Lost") as Portia.

Donenberg added that the Shakespeare Center has invited a number of civic leaders, from 1998 and today, to participate, including Mayor Eric Garcetti. A few have agreed to perform — it was uncertain at press time if Garcetti is among them — and Donenberg said those who do will have the opportunity to say lines alongside the actors.

Although this is a staged reading rather than a full production, Donenberg said that it will reflect current politics and modern times, rather than be a throwback with togas. The show will also take advantage of the setting.

"Louis will have people in the cast seated with the audience, who will speak, so it's all interactive," Donenberg said. After the show, the audience is invited to a 9 p.m. Caesar salad reception.

LA Times

Trump arrives in California for first visit as president, confronting the resistance movement on its home turf

By Brian Bennett

President Trump arrived in California on Tuesday after a tumultuous morning in which he fired his secretary of State to personally confront the state's resistance over his signature issue, a southern border wall, and related immigration crackdowns.

Trump's first visit to the nation's most populous state is to be brief — just one day — but long on symbolism. He plans to spend about an hour inspecting border wall prototypes built at his direction in San Diego, then speak at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and travel to a fundraiser in Beverly Hills that is expected to raise \$5 million for the Republican National Committee.

Immigrant, labor and LGBTQ rights activists are planning to protest while Democratic lawmakers are competing to raise their own profiles by denouncing him loudest. Many Republican candidates are staying away, given Trump's low popularity in the state.

Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, a front-runner in the governor's race, released an online animated video Tuesday morning caricaturing the president and castigating his immigration policies. One image shows Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan reimagined as "Make America White Again."

"It's official: Donald Trump finally worked up the nerve to visit California, bringing his fear-of-everything agenda with him," Newsom says in a voiceover. "Let's get real. Donald Trump's border wall is a monument to idiocy. A 1,900-mile waste of taxpayer money that — news flash — is impossible to complete."

The political action committee for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who is considering a run for president, is running ads coinciding with Trump's arrival. In a fundraising email, Garcetti wrote, "There's one thing you need to know: California Republicans and Donald Trump are like peas in a pod."

No president has waited so long to visit California since Franklin D. Roosevelt, who came by train in an era when jet travel was not routine. Trump is expected to depart Washington at 9:20 Eastern time Tuesday. He will leave California on Wednesday for events in St. Louis before returning home.

Trump used to boast that he could become the first GOP presidential candidate to win the state in nearly three decades, but wound up losing to Hillary Clinton by 4.3 million votes, leading to a loss in the popular vote that Trump often lamented.

In California, just 22% of voters approved of the job Trump was doing as president in a USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times poll in November; 66% disapproved.

"We welcomed all the presidents that have come before him to this great state, but what we will not welcome are seeds of division and hate. What we will not welcome is racism," said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights.

In a state so large, that still leaves millions of people eager to see the president clash with Democrats who control all the levers of power. Many of Trump's supporters in other states also view California as a foil, given its liberal power base, strict environmental regulations and permissive attitude toward immigration.

Trump arrives just one week after his administration sued California over its immigration laws, which were designed by state lawmakers eager to stop what they see as an overly aggressive enforcement policy that splits families and deports longtime, law-abiding residents. Trump and his allies see the state as a liberal sanctuary run amok and have criticized leaders including Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf — whom Trump called a "disgrace" — for tipping off communities about impending raids.

White House officials ratcheted up their fight with California politicians over immigration policies ahead of Trump's visit, briefing reporters Monday night on what they called "misconceptions" being propagated by leading Democrats in the state.

Thomas D. Homan, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, took particular exception to a comment by the House Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, who contended last week that the administration was engaged in "cowardly attacks" against immigrants after the Justice Department sued the state over its immigration laws.

"Her quotes were just beyond the pale," Homan said, taking Pelosi's words as an attack on immigration officers.

Homan said immigration officers were doing their jobs, putting their own safety at risk and protecting communities from criminals, including those within large immigrant populations.

"How dare she say we're terrorizing immigrant communities," he said.

Homan said recent operations in the state had mostly targeted convicted criminals including people accused of weapons crimes and crimes against children. "Our ICE officers are protecting the immigrant community in many ways," he said.

Homan's comments came just as the spokesman for ICE's San Francisco office, James Schwab, on Monday announced that he was resigning because of what he said were false claims by Homan and Sessions. Schwab said they and the agency inflated the number of suspected criminals that they said eluded capture because of Mayor Schaaf's warnings.

Homan, in his Monday night comments, also called criticism from California's Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein unacceptable.

"If people don't like it, people like Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein can certainly change the law," he said, noting that Feinstein voted for an immigration enforcement law in 1996 that granted officers the authority they're using.

Homan also criticized Gov. Jerry Brown, arguing that the state's law enforcement officers have determined people in jails are a threat to public safety and therefore the state should let ICE officers detain them in the name of public safety.

"Give us access to those people," he said.

A state law passed last year — one of three laws that the Trump administration has gone to court to challenge — bars jail officials from notifying immigration authorities when people in custody for certain crimes are about to be released. State officials say that the vast majority of those are low-level offenders and that such policies encourage immigrant communities to cooperate with law enforcement.

In another portion of the briefing with reporters, administration officials demanded anonymity. One official said that ICE had followed through on a threat Homan made previously to increase the number of immigration officers deployed in the state after Brown signed the law in October.

The administration official said the deployment was not a retaliatory act but an "operational response." Apprehending people who are at large requires more officers than simply taking custody of them before they are released from jail, the official said.

Brown wrote a letter ahead of Trump's visit urging support for California's high-speed rail efforts in an attempt to capitalize on Trump's oft-spoken support for building infrastructure. He also pushed back against the president's immigration philosophy, telling Trump that "our prosperity is not built on isolation."

"Quite the opposite," the governor wrote to Trump. "California thrives because we welcome immigrants and innovators from across the globe."

Fox Los Angeles

LA high school kids speak to mayor about gun violence

On Wednesday, thousands around the country are expected to walk out of class at 10 am for 17 minutes. One for each person killed in Florida's school shooting.

"They have the power to change the national conversation is really what this march is about," said Harvard Westlake student Eli Timoner.

We spoke to LAPD - they say they are prepared for a large number of schools in the area to have walkouts.

We're not just going to let this be a sensational news story. we're not just going to let this be a one time moment. this is a movement," said Eli Timoner a student at Harvard Westlake.

Nearly twenty kids bringing their movement...to the Mayor.

On the eve of the Parkland School shooting's one month anniversary, about 20 Los Angeles students sat down with Mayor Eric Garcetti to urge action in response to gun violence. They were clear they didn't think more guns were the answer.

"We do not want to arm teachers. I don't think more guns is the answer here," said high schooler Mikala Nellum. They also shared their list of demands for lawmakers.

"Universal background checks, making sure that large capacity magazines, that they're gone, bump stocks. gone...The gun show loophole was something we talked about. You can go to a gunshow and just get a gun. In my personal view, that is ridiculous. These are weapons that can do a lot of damage," said Ben Holzman with Hamilton High School.

Garcetti stressed LA has passed many restrictive gun laws.

He believes the answer here is a two-pronged one, with an emphasis on personal responsibility.

"You can change laws and people can still get guns. Vis versa, you can do a lot of education work but if guns are too easy to get, then you can still see violence....The larger area is what can we do around education and intervention. Can you go up to that student who is sitting by him or herself and begin to have that conversation," said LA Mayor Eric Garcetti.

...a conversation starting with these students.

Many of the young leaders believe the meeting with the mayor is only a small step, the future of the gun debate is in their hands.

But they are encouraging students to stay on campus.

They say that's the only way they will truly be safe.

ABC Los Angeles

19 students from across LA meet with mayor, suggest citywide gun reform campaign

By Melissa McBride

Nineteen students from different high schools and backgrounds in Los Angeles had a unique opportunity to tell Mayor Eric Garcetti how they feel about gun violence and gun control.

"We're the people who are actually in the schools. The people who are actually affected by these shootings that happened," said Ben Holtzman, a student at Hamilton High School.

On Tuesday, the meeting fell on the eve of the National School Walkout, a demonstration one month after 17 people were gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The students want Congress to pass federal laws closing loopholes in the 72-hour waiting period to buy a gun and to require background checks at gun shows. They also believe the focus in school should be on mental health.

"I think that we need more counselors on campus that reach out to students who may be at-risk," said Mikala Nellum, a student at Chatsworth High School.

The teens recognize how their actions play a role in prevention and that kindness is key.

"We recognize the importance of just lending a helping hand and just speaking to someone whom you've never spoken to before, and how those small things can have a large impact," said Danielle Rawles, a student at Westchester High School.

So how can the city help? The teenagers suggested a campaign similar to what's been done about the drought and human trafficking.

"We don't have a citywide campaign that is specifically about gun violence these days. So, I take that challenge and I embrace it because I learned that, I heard that from these students. Together, with the school board, I would love to be a part of that," Garcetti said.

The students all plan to take part in the national walkout, which happens at 10 a.m. Wednesday across all time zones. They said it's an opportunity to get others involved and that it's not a moment but a movement.

CBS Los Angeles

Student Walkouts Planned Across LA To Honor Victims 1 Month After Stoneman Douglas High Shooting

Students across the city plan to walk out of classes Wednesday morning, a month after a teen gunman opened fire at a South Florida high school, killing 17 people.

Groups across the state and the nation will stand in solidarity during the National School Walkout to protest gun violence and will have a 17-minute moment of silence, one minute for each of the victims of the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Ahead of the walkouts, 19 Los Angeles-area student leaders met with Mayor Eric Garcetti to discuss gun violence, possible legislation to curb gun deaths and mental illness.

"Even though we cannot vote, we do realize we have a voice and it's valuable," said high school senior Danielle Rawles.

"I think the biggest point of this walkout is inspiring broader activism," echoed senior Eli Tominer.

"The larger area that we talked about is what can we do in education intervention," said Garcetti after the meeting. "Can you go up to that student who's sitting by himself always and begin to have that conversation?"

On-campus, student-led assemblies and forums to speak in support of gun control. Students from the Los Angeles Unified School District were encouraged last month not to leave campus by the acting superintendent.

Whether students' absences are marked "unexcused" will be up to individual principals.

The American Civil Liberties Union chapter of Southern California said Tuesday students should be able to exercise their First Amendment rights, saying on their site, "Citing California Education Code, the ACLU stated that students may not be suspended for participating in walkouts or off-campus protests. School officials may choose to punish students less harshly (or not at all) for participating in walk-outs and protests, as long as all expressive activity is treated equally regardless of content or viewpoint."

The Los Angeles Police Department is pushing students to participate in on-campus demonstrations.

"The department understands the need for students to participate in peaceful dialogue within the parameters of school

administrators, however, the safety of our young adults relies on their willingness to remain on campus under the protection of the Los Angeles Unified School Police Department," the LAPD said.

Superintendent for the Fontana Unified School District Randal Bassett said Tuesday, "On the 14, our schools will be empowering our students with age-appropriate school site activities designed to proactively address student safety, while honoring the victims in Parkland, Fla."

In Pasadena, student Katrina Yuzefpolsky plans be part of her school's demonstration. When Yuzefpolsky was 8, a man in a Santa Claus costume entered a Christmas party she was attending, shooting her in the face and killing nine of her family members.

Now 17, she's a vocal proponent of changes towards stricter gun laws.

"I've lived through it, and I'm still living my life as best as I can," the La Salle High junior told the Associated Press. "It's not stopping me, it's not instilling fear in me. I want that change. I don't want other families to go through what me and my family went through."

She and her fellow La Salle classmates produced a video called "WALK," which she told AP was a part of her healing process. The video starts with the now-famous refrain from Stoneman Douglas High students in the days after the shooting, "We call B.S."

The nationwide demonstrations are slated to begin at 10 a.m Wednesday.

There will be on-campus activities at the following schools:

Carson High School

Eagle Rock Junior/Senior High School

Francis Polytechnic High School

Venice High School

Miguel Contreras Learning Complex

Culver City High School

Crescenta Valley High School

La Opinion

Garcetti still struggling to expand the number of female firefighters

Four years ago, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti promised to renew the city's way of hiring firefighters by introducing more women into an apartment that has been overwhelmingly male .

However, despite the fact that recruitment efforts are increasingly aggressive, until now the changes have been almost imperceptible: according to the employment data of the Fire Department, last month, 3.1% of firefighters were women , a figure only slightly higher than 2.9% in July 2013 , when Garcetti took office. Meanwhile, fire chief Ralph M. Terrazas aims to double the number of female firefighters in 2020 .

Deputy Mayor Jeff Gorell, who oversees Garcetti's public safety, said the mayor is still pushing to make sure that 5% of the department's firefighters are women by the year 2020 . Affirms, yes, that what has been achieved so far is not "insignificant." "We are happy to see the movement in the direction we want to go, which is to reach 5%," he says.

Garcetti stopped hiring at the Fire Department in March 2014 after a series of Times reports uncovered nepotism and mismanagement in hiring . At that time, the mayor condemned the city's selection methods as "fatally flawed" and vowed to ensure that his workforce "better reflects the city."

The push by the Fire Department to recruit and retain women is a focus not only on the mayor but also on his wife, Amy Wakeland . On Thursday, both will be co-hosts of a recruitment fair at Getty House for women interested in jobs in the fire and police departments.

Officials at the Fire Department say they have launched advertising campaigns, created promotional videos and even went to colleges and universities hoping to increase the number of candidates . Of the 826 invited firefighter trainings since 2013, 61 (7.4%) were women.

Since Garcetti resumed contracting, two classes ended without any woman graduating. Last summer, the department examined six consecutive classes from the academy from 2014 to 2016 and found that only 57% of female recruits graduated, compared to 83% of male recruits who did. The president of the Fire Commission, Delia Ibarra, a person designated by Garcetti, said that some women left the training academy after suffering injuries.

On February 1, independent consultant Sue Stengel, an internal guardian of the Fire Department, sent the fire chief a written request for documents on tests and evaluations at the fire academy to try to understand why the graduation rate Women is so low. Lisa Davies, who retired in 2015 after 31 years of service, is not surprised by this data, which she considers a direct consequence of the intimidation and harassment that both women and other minorities suffer . She is a woman and African-American, with which she suffered double discrimination, for which, through complaint, she received compensation of \$ 325,000 from the city.

In any case, and despite the widespread effort to change the situation, at this time the male-female relationship within the fire department is very similar to that of two decades ago.

La Opinion

LA legislators can block housing projects for homeless people simply by withholding a key letter

Los Angeles lawmakers believe that the city must act urgently to help tens of thousands of people get out of their streets , thus committing to building thousands of housing units for homeless people with support services as well as demand a new law that will facilitate their approval.

However, until now, members of the City Council have clung to their own power to stop those projects. And is that before a proposed building can get funds from the housing department through Proposition HHH, the bond of 1.2 billion dollars

approved by voters must have a "letter of recognition" , so that, if a Council member retains it, the initiative is paralyzed. For example, last February, the housing department said that it rejected funds for two proposed projects that lacked the required letter. One of them, presented to Florence Avenue in south Los Angeles, was "theoretically viable," according to a staff report.

Gary Blasi, professor emeritus at the UCLA School of Law, called the requirement "scandalous" because it is "purely political," but Council members have argued that his intention is not to frustrate projects, but to help guarantee endorsement of the community . Anna Bahr, deputy press secretary of Mayor Eric Garcetti , agrees: "These letters can play an important role in securing the crucial acceptance of the members of the City Council and the voters of the new projects."

"This process is important to make sure these projects are done well," Councilwoman Mónica Rodríguez Rodríguez also believes, while Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson believes that "it is as important to carry them out as to do it so that the neighborhood embraces them. "

However, non-profit organizations that defend poor and homeless people regret that this requirement creates a barrier to projects that are worthwhile , slowing down or even preventing processes. That a council member can quietly sabotage a project without relying on any rule seems disturbing: "There are no objective criteria for issuing a letter," said Shashi Hanuman, director of the Community Development Project of Public Counsel, a non-profit law firm. profit.

The letter requirement was included in the regulations on the HHH Proposal funds that lawmakers approved in December . Thus, a request for funds from HHH that lacks the necessary letter "will be automatically rejected". In any case, general manager Rushmore Cervantes recalled that the housing department also requires letters before recommending the delivery of other funds for affordable housing projects and for seniors .

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River

The quinceanera mystique. Bye Bye Birdie and curbing gun violence featured at San Pedro Film Festival

Economic Development

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Study: LA's Small Businesses Optimistic About Growth

Renderings For DTLA's CitizenM Hotel

The NoMad Hotel Lands In Los Angeles

Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice

Mapping the long history of oil drilling in LA

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils

LAUSD students to honor Florida shooting victims with walkouts, on campus activities

LAUSD students to stand together for Parkland shooting victims with protests, on campus activities

Ready, set, walkout: Schools prepare for expected student protests on Wednesday

LAUSD will strengthen school safety plans, joins calls for stricter gun control laws

LA Unified renames first all girls school after retiring Supt Michelle King

North Hollywood High students, charter school unite against sharing a campus

Homelessness & Poverty

How This POC, Women Led Group Is Taking A DIY Approach To Feeding South LA's Homeless

LA County's new homeless encampment toilets to get 24 hour security

New toilets at some LA County homeless camps getting 24/7 security, LA County says

Sylmar high schoolers' project to fight homelessness draws attention

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LA County wants to fix housing. They can. Here's how

It's pricey to live in Southern California-here's the proof

Public Safety

Heavily deployed LAPD prepared for anything as Trump comes to Southern California

Trumpageddon Traffic? LAPD Left In Dark On President's Travel Plans

What LA streets should you avoid today during President Trump' visit? LAPD won't say

LA area police get ready for Trump, traffic and protests

LA man charged in fatal stabbing of 2 men in Santa Monica, Hollywood

Predator guilty in multiple victim South LA murder, robbery crime spree

Man Convicted Of Second Degree Murder In South LA Hit-And-Run Crash That Killed Female Uber Driver

South LA woman known as Pretty Hoe indicted on charges of sex trafficking of girls

SnapChat Famous LA Sex Worker Pretty Hoe Charged In Sex Trafficking

Man Charged With Attempted Murder In Venice Bar Shooting

Suicide suspected in shots fired in parking lot of Kaiser Permanente offices in North Hollywood

Trade, Travel & Tourism

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East Coast Blizzard Cancels Flights Into, Out Of LAX From Boston
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Transportation

Will Obamajam become Trumpjam? Trump's visit has LA commuters nervous
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Mar Vista Venice Blvd Great Streets Forum Tomorrow-Wednesday Night
Taylor Swift walks barefoot through 7th/ Metro Center station in new video
California's bullet train project should come to an immediate end

LOS ANGELES CITY GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles City Government

Trump's first LA visit as president is shrouded in mystery
Protesters greet Trump as he arrives at downtown hotel

LOS ANGELES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

LA County supervisors OK motion to stud stricter gun laws
LA leaders take aim at gun sales in the county after yet another mass shooting

Los Angeles County

LA County wants to fix housing. They can. Here's how
Sexual harassment scandals, women candidates shape LA County's state legislative races



Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 3:24 AM
To: Carolyn comcast [REDACTED], Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

No one has ever gone straight from City Hall to the White House. Could LA Mayor Garcetti end that streak?

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-pol-essential-washington-updates-no-one-has-ever-gone-straight-from-city-1507759468-htmlstory.html>

Sen Dianne Feinstein is running for re election again, but the resistance thinks she's too bi partisan

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-feinstein-reelection-campaign-20171012-story.html>

The case for Kevin de Leon for US Senate

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article178559596.html>

Kevin de Leon Planning To Challenge Feinstein For Senate Seat, Per Report

http://laist.com/2017/10/12/de_leon_senate.php

Leftists Are Preparing To Push Dianne Feinstein Out Of The Senate

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/43a9mb/leftists-are-preparing-to-push-dianne-feinstein-out-of-the-senate

Grants Awarded To Make New Kid's Play Zones Across LA

<https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/grants-awarded-make-new-kids-play-zones-across-l>

Carrillo and Lopez advance to runoff election for SoCal Assembly seat

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/12/76585/carrillo-and-lopez-advance-to-runoff-election-for/>

Must Read! How Nextdoor Found 10 Million People While LA City Planning Found 100

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14174-must-read-how-nextdoor-found-10-million-people-while-la-city-planning-found-100>

Alumna creates company to develop nonhormonal endometriosis treatment

<http://dailybruin.com/2017/10/13/alumna-creates-company-to-develop-nonhormonal-endometriosis-treatment/>

Eli Broad retiring from public life right now

http://www.iaobserved.com/archive/2017/10/eli_broad_retiring_from_p.php

LA Times

No one has ever gone straight from City Hall to the White House. Could LA Mayor Garcetti end that streak?

By Mark Barabek

There are many paths to the presidency, most of them a standard climb from one elected office to the next.

A whole passel of lawmakers have cycled their way through a governorship or the U.S. Senate en route to the White House. Others arrived with less buttoned-down backgrounds. There have been war heroes, a former haberdasher, a onetime movie actor.

And then, of course, there is the current occupant whose resume — real estate developer, beauty pageant promoter, conspiracy monger, reality TV celebrity — comprises a category all its own.

In the whole history of the United States, however, there has never been a candidate who made the leap straight from City Hall to the White House, or who even managed to win his party's presidential nomination.

Now Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is mentioned as a presidential prospect, fresh off his inauguration to a second term. He insists that more than 250 years of unbroken mayoral futility are no deterrent.

"I think all the rules are off," he told a Wisconsin TV interviewer during a June visit to the Midwestern swing state. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is."

LA Times

Sen. Dianne Feinstein is running for re-election again, but the resistance thinks she's too bi-partisan

By Seema Mehta

Sen. Dianne Feinstein kept many in suspense for months over her decision to seek reelection, but since announcing her plans Monday to pursue a sixth term, she's made clear there will be no more waiting.

As she kicks off what could be her most difficult campaign since 1994, some members of her party are saying Feinstein's measured approach to politics no longer fits in a state that has grown markedly more liberal since she was first elected. Her allies immediately pushed back at such a notion: Feinstein's announcement was followed by a fundraising letter written by California's junior senator, Kamala Harris, whose vocal opposition to President Trump's policies have made her an increasingly popular figure on the left. Then there was a significant union endorsement, and a Beverly Hills fundraiser Tuesday night with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who warned against a "cannibalistic" intra-party fight.

Wednesday found Feinstein in her element, updating a Riverside business group about foreign, domestic and state policy issues, including dealing with an increasingly aggressive North Korea, the impact on California of Trump's tax reform proposal and the devastating wildfires in the state.

But as recently as last week, Feinstein, 84, told reporters on Wednesday and donors on Tuesday, she was debating what to do. She thought to herself that she has had a good run representing California in the Senate for a quarter-century. She has worked her entire adult life. Maybe it would be good to take some time off to enjoy her sunset years?

A conversation last week with a close friend in Washington clinched her decision.

"I came to the conclusion that this is how I'm meant to spend my life."

Feinstein's decision comes as she faces challenges she hasn't encountered in prior elections.

A restive and vocal liberal faction is arguing that Feinstein is too moderate to represent the state that has become home base for "the resistance" against Trump's agenda. Meanwhile, the nation's capital is gripped by polarization and gridlock. The ability to work across party lines to solve the nation's problems — a skill Feinstein has long prided herself on — seems less common every day.

Protesters have dogged Feinstein all year, speaking out about her opposition to single-payer healthcare, her call for "patience" with Trump's presidency and her bipartisan efforts. Outside her fundraiser Tuesday, a demonstrator held a sign that read "Retire Dianne the DINO," or Democrat in Name Only, a twist on an insult that Republicans usually hurl at others in the GOP who are deemed to lack solidly conservative credentials.

One freshman California congressman and fellow Democrat went further: He called for a primary challenge.

"On the big issues of our time, she's been on the wrong side of history," Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Fremont) said Tuesday on SiriusXM's "The Dean Obeidallah Show," citing Feinstein's vote for the Iraq war and support for the Patriot Act.

But on most issues, the California senator has voted with her party, though her record is not as liberal as those of Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts or Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Rep. Barbara Lee, an Oakland congresswoman whom Khanna urged to run, quickly said she had no plans to challenge Feinstein.

There already are several long-shot candidates running against Feinstein. California political watchers are waiting to see what Senate President Pro Tem Kevin De León decides to do, given his interest in the job and need for a next step as his time in the state Senate ends because of term limits. De León has not ruled out a primary challenge to Feinstein and is one of the few high-ranking Democrats in the state who has not commented on her reelection campaign.

Billionaire environmental activist and major Democratic donor Tom Steyer inserted himself into the speculation on Tuesday when he sent a letter to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee saying that candidates must support Trump's impeachment. He added that now is "not a time for 'patience.'"

"It is clear for all to see that there is zero reason to believe 'he can be a good president,'" he wrote, highlighting statements Feinstein made in August that caused a fiery backlash from progressives.

Any challenger would face significant obstacles going after someone with such a storied career and deep ties to the state. Moments after Feinstein announced her 2018 campaign, Harris emailed her supporters seeking to raise money for Feinstein.

"Since joining the Senate in January, I have found few better allies in our fight to stop the radical agenda of Donald Trump than Dianne. She's joined with us in every major fight," Harris wrote.

The next day, the United Farm Workers announced their endorsement of Feinstein, the first in a long list of labor groups likely to support California's senior senator. That evening, Hollywood studio executives and philanthropists raised money for Feinstein's campaign, with guests spending up to \$5,400 to attend a poolside reception at a Beverly Hills mansion hosted by Garcetti and Hollywood power players including Michael Eisner and Sherry Lansing.

As Garcetti introduced Feinstein, he warned the crowd that any primary challenge would be a grave mistake.

It would be "wrong for Democrats and what California should be doing right now," Garcetti said, ticking off Trump policies that the state needed to fight. "We have a lot of work to do."

In Riverside on Wednesday, Feinstein emphasized the importance of seniority. She talked about pushing the bump-stock legislation she introduced in the Senate in the aftermath of the mass shooting in Las Vegas. She demonstrated her fluency in issues overseas (the Iran nuclear deal) and local (the runway requirements for large cargo aircraft to land at nearby March Air Force Base).

And she looked back fondly to the ways of Washington when she first joined the Senate, recalling bipartisan groups going to a senator's personal retreat to discuss healthcare policy.

"It was congenial. We listened to one another. You'd be surprised how much people of your opposite party know, and if you really are able to talk to them [and] have an open mind, who knows what you can come up with," Feinstein said, later adding that was her goal for her remaining time in the Senate.

"God knows this is a hard time for the country. I want to do everything I can to bring people together, past the partisan divide, so we really as Americans have a common purpose."

Sac Bee

The case for Kevin de León for US Senate

By Christopher Caldelago

Kevin de León's got nothing to lose.

A Democrat and the leader of the state Senate, de León is ready to announce that he will challenge Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California. She is 84 and seeking her fifth six-year term in 2018.

Term limits will force de León from office, and with a crowded field of Democrats lining up to succeed Gov. Jerry Brown, the Los Angeles politician is part of a generation blocked by the bottleneck of the party's older guard. De León could wait to run for mayor of Los Angeles, but Eric Garcetti just won a 5 1/2-year term, and isn't scheduled to leave City Hall until 2022.

By that time, other Democrats could be better positioned than de León to launch statewide campaigns. Waiting in the wings are Garcetti and Secretary of State Alex Padilla, along with Reps. Adam Schiff, Eric Swalwell and Ted Lieu.

Feinstein's seat is the best opportunity for de León to advance his career.

"If you are a brash, ambitious young Democrat, it's pretty hard to see how you sit this one out," said Garry South, a Democratic strategist who has run campaigns in California since 1992, when Feinstein was first elected to the Senate. History suggests it can be a beneficial move, even if he loses. Pat Brown in 1946, Alan Cranston (1966), Pete Wilson (1978), Gray Davis (1974, and later in 1992) and Feinstein herself won bigger offices after defeats.

While polls consistently show de León is not known to most voters statewide, a generational clash with Feinstein over who embodies the future of California – and in a broader sense the direction of the national party – would at a minimum elevate his stature and could position him as the frontrunner for her seat in 2024, or sooner if she doesn't serve out the full term.

"If you do it well, and you don't make a fool of yourself, it's a way to get your name out there and develop infrastructure statewide," South said.

De León has been looking at a challenge for months. He met with reporters while recently in Washington and has leaped at chances to jab Feinstein, who has urged "patience" with Donald Trump and suggested that he could still be a "good president." Last weekend, de León took on Feinstein for saying on national television that no law would have stopped the Las Vegas shooter.

The unrest from the party's vocal liberal wing could draw yet another candidate into the race: billionaire liberal donor Tom Steyer. He also took a shot at Feinstein this week for her comments about Trump.

Restive progressive protesters have turned up to demonstrate outside Feinstein's San Francisco home and shouted her down at town hall events over her unwillingness to embrace single-payer health care. She backed the war in Iraq and the Patriot Act, and more recently voted to confirm 11 of Trump's 22 Cabinet and administration nominees. Her colleague Sen. Kamala Harris voted "no" 18 times.

Democratic consultant MacIen Zilber, of California-based Jacobson & Zilber Strategies, said de León is smart to take on Feinstein. He believes the political environment may even be ripe for an upset.

"Dianne Feinstein is a something of a paper tiger," said Zilber, who is running several Democrats for statewide office and Congress in 2018. "I think she's eminently beatable."

Zilber said he sees a pathway for de León, 50, to appeal to disaffected progressives, young people, civil libertarians, people of color and Southern California residents. At the same time, he said, the state senator has also done well to keep more traditional Democrats happy though his Capitol partnership with Brown.

LAist

Kevin de León Planning To Challenge Feinstein For Senate Seat, Per Report

By Julia Wick

On Monday, Senator Dianne Feinstein confirmed that she was running for reelection in 2018, setting the stage for a potential primary battle if another Democrat decided to challenge her. Few California Democrats are more powerful than state Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León, and his name led the list of potential challengers in California's 2018 Senate race long before Feinstein confirmed that she was "all in."

Now, CNN is reporting that de León is planning to enter the race, per "three sources with knowledge of his plans."

According to CNN, de León has started "calling labor leaders and elected officials to inform them of his plans" and will announce soon. This comes less than 24 hours after LA Weekly's Hillel Aron christened a potential de León Senate bid as "the hot political rumor of the moment."

De León, 50, represents California's 24th Senate District, which includes downtown and East Los Angeles. He was born in Los Angeles and served four years in the Assembly prior to his election to the Senate in 2010.

In a story last month speculating on de León's post-Legislature political future, Patrick McGreevy, the L.A. Times' California Legislature reporter, wrote that "Attempting to oust a sitting senator from his own party, especially one of Feinstein's stature, would be without precedent in the modern era of California politics."

"There is no question if [Feinstein] chose not to run it would be a logical place for Kevin to go, and I think he would get tremendous support from the progressive community and Latino community and from Los Angeles," California Democratic Party Chairman Eric Bauman told the L.A. Times in September. But Feinstein did, in fact, choose to run

Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The United Farm Workers have also already endorsed Feinstein, and numerous Hollywood heavy-hitters were in attendance at a fundraiser for her held the afternoon after she announced. There were also a small group of protesters outside, as noted by L.A. Times political reporter Seema Mehta:

At 84 (she'll be 85 by the 2018 election), Feinstein is the oldest U.S. Senator currently serving. She may be a stalwart of California politics, but her centrist views have not endeared her to progressives. This is particularly true in a political climate where rising stars are making their names in opposition to the current administration, and in a state that has, according to the L.A. Times, "grown markedly more liberal since [Feinstein] was first elected." Her relevance is also debatable to some—see the very first suggested question on the first page of Google search results for "Senator Feinstein":

But can de León mobilize those progressive votes? "Kevin speaks to immigrants and young people in a way that's unique," Bauman told the Weekly. "And I think many people are frustrated by the status quo — even though he's a consummate insider — view him as an outsider with respect to Washington."

The Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles—one progressive group with an increasingly large footprint in Los Angeles—had mixed feelings. "Feinstein has served the status quo, not Californians, and anyone who runs against her needs to prove that they have the people's material interests, not special interests, at the forefront of their mind," Kelsey Goldberg, DSA-LA's communications director, said in a statement to LAist. "De León is certainly better than Feinstein, but in undermining his own sanctuary bill by capitulating to the Sheriff, he's already proven that he's capable of being just as weak-willed."

LAist reached out to de León's office for comment but did not immediately hear back.

Vice

Leftists Are Preparing To Push Dianne Feinstein Out Of The Senate

By Eve Peyser

On Monday, Dianne Feinstein, the 84-year-old Democrat who has served as one of California's senators since 1992, announced her bid for reelection. She kicked off the campaign with a Beverly Hills fundraiser, which was met with, according to a local news report, "a small but energetic crowd of protestors... demanding that Feinstein endorse the Sanders bill for single-payer healthcare."

That shows the unexpected challenge Feinstein is facing. She's an influential Democrat who has in past decades pushed progressive causes like gun control and is currently the highest-ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. But now she's under siege from the leftists who have gained newfound power in her party—and a primary challenge against her, which is all but inevitable, could be a key battle in the struggle for the soul of the Democrats.

Unsurprisingly, Feinstein has already received support from the state's most notable Democrats, including Senator Kamala Harris, congressmen Adam Schiff and Ted Lieu, and Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who was one of the hosts of her Beverly Hills fundraiser. But activists have taken issue with what they see as her centrism, especially when it comes to her opposition to Bernie Sanders's Medicare for all plan. "If single-payer healthcare is going to mean complete takeover by the government of all healthcare, I'm not there yet," she said at a town hall in April. And that isn't the only thing that has Berniecrats ready to raise hell against her.

In 2014, she joined Republicans in opposing President Barack Obama's plan to reform spy agencies. She's long been sympathetic to the national security establishment, has been a strong backer of the PATRIOT Act and NSA wiretapping programs, and was one of many Democrats to vote for the Iraq War—a decision she recently told Mother Jones that she regrets.

That doesn't mean she isn't a liberal. She has a history of for stronger gun control laws after she witnessed the assassination of San Francisco mayor George Moscone and city supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978. She recently introduced a bill to ban bump stocks after they were found in the hotel room of Stephen Paddock, the shooter who killed 58 victims in Las Vegas. And she broke with the intelligence community in 2014 when she released a committee report on the CIA's post-9/11 torture program.

That's not enough for the latest generation of California Democrats, who are more left wing than their predecessors.

Kimberly Ellis, an activist who unsuccessfully ran for California Democratic Party chair earlier this year, told the New York Times that "California has changed over the two and a half decades [Feinstein] has been in office, and I don't think she's changed along with the state."

That is at least partially borne out by polls. A September UC Berkeley survey found that 50 percent of eligible voters approve of Feinstein's performance, but that same the Public Policy Institute of California found that only 41 percent of California voters—and 57 percent of Democrats—thought she should run for another term. Those aren't particularly bad numbers, but they might be just weak enough to convince an ambitious politician that she's vulnerable.

Ro Khanna, a freshman congressman who represents Silicon Valley and served in the Department of Commerce under Obama, is actively trying to recruit primary challengers to unseat Feinstein—an aggressive move that shows how eager the left is to defeat her. He told Vox's Jeff Stein, "Feinstein is out of touch with the grassroots of our party on economic policy and foreign policy. After 47 years in elected office and 25 years in the Senate, she continues to cling to office as a voice for the status quo."

In an interview with Politico, Khanna, who was an outspoken supporter of Sanders in the 2016 primaries, further criticized her for being "totally out of touch when the whole debate happened on encryption," referencing the conflict between Apple and the FBI after the San Bernadino shooting. That's just one example of the larger anti-Feinstein narrative that has emerged. Her opponents are attempting to paint her as out of touch, both with the changing times and her base, mostly

without being explicit about her age.

In recent years, she's been attacked for holding positions that might once have seemed uncontroversial. In 2015, National Nurses United, the country's largest professional nurses union and a major player in progressive politics, put Feinstein on its "dishonor roll," along with several other Democrats after she voted in favor of authorizing the president to "fast track" global trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. California Senate leader Kevin de León criticized her after she told a San Francisco audience that she believes Trump "can be a good president."

On Thursday afternoon, CNN reported that León will challenge Feinstein in the primary. The report also suggested that billionaire environmentalist Tom Steyer is "very much looking at the Senate race."

But Feinstein doesn't seem too concerned with the leftist criticism she's received. "I have the energy," she told the New York Times. "My mind is fine. I believe I will have strong support from Democrats—and from others." That seems likely to be tested soon.

Patch

Grants Awarded To Make New Kid's Play Zones Across L.A.

By Emilie Holland

A total of \$200,000 grants to fund ideas on converting everyday spaces into children's play zones were awarded to 10 winners, it was announced Thursday by Mayor Eric Garcetti and the project's partners, KaBOOM! and Dr Pepper Snapple.

The competition asked for ideas that will encourage play where there is the greatest need across the city. Recent projects from the Let's Play competition include an abandoned bus stop in McFarland which was converted into a play area, and a public sidewalk in San Francisco which had asphalt games, signs and a public chalk walk added.

"All children deserve safe, fun places to play where they can be inspired to dream," Garcetti said. "With the support of Let's Play Everywhere LA, the winners of this grant will use the power of creativity to awaken young Angelenos' imaginations and promote healthy activity in our neighborhoods."

The 10 winners are:

Kester Elementary School, 5353 Kester Ave.

Pico Union Project, 1201 Valencia St.

California Greenworks, Inc., 1782 W. Gage Ave.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, 2800 W. Pico Blvd.

Grant Housing and Economic Development Corporation, 10205 Compton Ave.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St.

Proyecto Pastoral, 125 N. Mission Rd.

Youth Policy Institute, 421 Rosemont Ave.

American Southwest Railway Association, 5200 Zoo Drive

Pico Great Street Collaborative, 1407 Hauser Blvd.

"Let's Play Everywhere LA will make play the easy choice for kids and families in their communities," said James Siegal, CEO of KaBOOM!. "The winning projects offer more opportunities for families to ensure children can get the play they need to thrive. With the support from Dr Pepper Snapple and the city of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, more kids across Los Angeles County will get the childhood they deserve through great, safe places to play."

Applicants for the award were restricted to government entities, non-profits or individuals/groups who have partnered with them. More about the 10 selected grantees, including photos and descriptions of their upcoming projects, can be found at kaboom.org/la.

KPCC

Carrillo and Lopez advance to runoff election for SoCal Assembly seat

By Riley Beggin

Democrats Wendy Carrillo and Luis Lopez, who are running to replace former Los Angeles Assemblyman Jimmy Gomez, will move on to the general election runoff on Dec. 5.

Just over 10 percent of eligible voters cast ballots in the special election on Oct. 3, which is among the lowest turnouts this year for a county-run election.

Carrillo received 22 percent of the vote and Lopez received close to 19 percent, according to the County Clerk's office. A single candidate would have had to receive at least 50 percent of the vote to avoid a runoff election.

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors is will declare the results official on Oct. 17, according to the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder.

Gomez resigned from his position in the California state assembly after being elected to Congress to represent California's 34th District in a special runoff election in June. The seat became available when Xavier Becerra was appointed California's attorney general.

Carrillo and Lopez ran against 11 other candidates in the primary election to represent the 51st Assembly District, which covers parts of northeast and east Los Angeles. The AP reported that the district is solidly Democratic, has one of the largest Latino populations in the state and has a large LGBT community.

Carrillo was endorsed by organizations such as the legislative Women's Caucus, the state Democratic party and Emily's List, and Lopez was backed by groups such as Equality California, Planned Parenthood and the Sierra Club.

City Watch

Must Read! How Nextdoor Found 10 Million People While LA City Planning Found 100

By Jorge Castenada

In 2013, I was organizing for the startup Nextdoor, the social networking app for neighborhoods whose logo is a cute 'n chunky house. Nobody had heard of Nextdoor, and Los Angeles had only a handful of users. Four years later, Nextdoor has 10 million registered users in 160,000 neighborhoods in the U.S., Netherlands, U.K., and Germany.

Our Los Angeles team was one dozen organizers, and our assignment was to somehow connect tens of thousands of neighbors with each other. Our shoestring campaign was one of sustained outreach, integration of community input, and thoughtful collaboration with allies like LA's all-volunteer Neighborhood Councils.

It is a brutal grind for a team of 12 to canvass our famous urban sprawl, but we understood the potential of the tech we were introducing — we'd compared the health effects of living in a neighborhood whose residents talked to each other, to a neighborhood that was isolated or alienated. Whenever we felt overwhelmed we recalled the larger canvass of empowering communities, and we pressed on.

Doggedly analytical, we identified and built upon community values shared by Neighborhood Councils and other stakeholders. Communication and transparency became critical components, since Nextdoor was integrating community desires into its product. Here is what sustained the Nextdoor campaign: fully transparent communication to inspire open collaboration among hundreds, and later tens of thousands, of Angelenos.

I saw the same collaborative values during Obama 2012, for which I was Valley Deputy Field Director. Fast-forward to Hillary 2016, where I ran the East LA Campaign Office and saw her movement falter. I spent a lot of time pondering what happened. In the fog of cyberwar, the Hillary campaign asked millions their opinions, but failed to hear the answers.

So, it's 2017, I have that lesson in the back of my mind. I began organizing for the non-profit Coalition to Preserve LA, which is a citywide movement of concerned residents who believe in open government, people-oriented planning, equitable housing and environmental stewardship through advocacy and empowering communities.

The Coalition, along with about 30 Neighborhood Councils, spent six months in 2017 pushing and urging City Hall to engage in fully open, bottom-up discussions around the first comprehensive update of the city's General Plan since the Vietnam War.

The General Plan Update is the blueprint for making LA a better place as it grows. Under California law, the public must be given a say from the start in shaping the "Elements," including open space, parks, infrastructure, land-use, public safety and other critical issues.

Measured against our 12 organizers at Nextdoor, LA's 350-strong Department of Planning is an unsettling master class on how to avoid public input. City Planners held non-transparent, private, invitation-only debates this year to shape the Open Space Element. After intense public criticism about that, from LA Tenants Union, Hillside Federation and more than 30 Neighborhood Councils, City Planning opened a single Open Space debate to the public. A standing-room-only crowd showed up. The deep concerns expressed that day were jotted down as fragments, by a city employee, on a flip-chart — and never seen again.

This month, City Planning is unveiling its Open Space Element "outline" at four public hearings. The hearings are proving to bend the concept of "public." The first two, in Westwood and the Valley, were not advertised. I counted 35 members of the public in Westwood, and maybe 60 at the Valley hearing — many of them alerted by Coalition to Preserve LA. The last two are set for Oct. 21 in South LA, and Oct. 25 in Hollywood. Almost nobody knows about them. (See schedule at end of article.)

Let's compare those tiny gatherings to what City Hall is capable of. "Vision Zero" is a \$32 million pet project of Mayor Garcetti's transportation czar, who got a \$700,000 budget for consultants to hold up wacky signs on street corners, pitch-makers to attend Neighborhood Councils promoting a Swedish street safety concept, and radio ads. It was all over town. Vision Zero backfired because city officials downplayed their underlying goal — to close busy commuter lanes, known as a "road diet."

But is Vision Zero's sneakiness a more acute failure than a General Plan nobody has heard of?

The General Plan is LA's shared vision for addressing climate change, livability, growth, open spaces, infrastructure and public safety. On Oct. 2, City Planner Ken Bernstein told the small Westside hearing, "we have no funding" to truly involve the public.

You should probably read that last paragraph again.

In the same vein, City Planning held four public hearings in September for its \$10.8 million Re:code LA program, attracting just 28 people. One meeting had four attendees. Re:code LA, by the way, is merely a sweeping system that will affect land-use and zoning for all of LA's 3.97 million residents.

One may conclude that Mayor Eric Garcetti's April 2016 vow to give Angelenos "a sense of ownership over the development of their communities" was an optional vow.

Which brings me to Boyle Heights, whose gentrification battles personify the problem of introducing change built upon minimal public awareness and little to no buy-in.

Already jumpy about the city's push to gentrify Boyle Heights for upscale new residents, Boyle Heights will be the first of LA's Community Plans subjected to the Re:code LA experiment.

Recently, a worried Boyle Heights resident asked City Planning for public documents generated during the long "technical phase" of the Community Plan, a closed-door period in which city planners are remapping the future of Boyle Heights.

The resident discovered that no public documents exist from the "technical phase," a glaring violation of the California Public Records Act. All other government documents on the Boyle Heights Community Plan are entirely public, except for these. Why?

Here, one may conclude that a pledge by City Councilman Jose Huizar to bring “accountability and transparency back into our General Plan and Community Plan processes,” was an optional pledge. This month, nearly 3.97 million Angelenos will not attend the four public hearings to discuss the Open Space Element of the General Plan. But you should go. The last time the General Plan was updated, in 1970, city planners and LA residents didn't know about climate change, the Hollywood or Northridge earthquake fault locations or the stunning role our urban tree canopy plays in human health and cleansing the air. Now we do. Under state law and common sense, our General Plan must reflect the public's vision, not a top-down vision from City Planning. If 12 Nextdoor organizers like me can launch an unknown concept on a shoestring budget and craft a shared vision embraced by thousands of people, common sense suggests a city with 35,000-plus employees and a \$9.2 billion budget has no excuse for failing to join the current Millennium.

Daily Bruin

Alumna creates company to develop nonhormonal endometriosis treatment

By Laurel Scott

Tanya Petrossian is fighting against an overlooked epidemic that affects more than 10 percent of girls and women worldwide.

Petrossian, who received her bachelor's and doctorate degrees at UCLA, founded EndoCyclic Therapeutics in 2017 to develop the world's first nonhormone therapeutic treatment for endometriosis, a chronic disease that Petrossian was diagnosed with in February.

“I like to say that endometriosis attacked the wrong girl, because we're fighting back,” Petrossian said. “A disease that attacks 10 percent of our girls and women worldwide attacks all of us, so let's wipe it out.”

Endometriosis is a disorder in which the tissue that normally lines the uterus begins to grow on other organs in the pelvis, causing lesions and scar tissues and provoking pain and a heightened immune response from the body, Petrossian said. It is the leading cause of infertility and disability in women ages 15 to 45, and is estimated to affect 176 million women globally.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti selected Petrossian in September for this year's Entrepreneurs in Residence program, which helps successful entrepreneurs in Los Angeles connect with future business leaders and foster growth in their industries.

Garcetti said in a statement he chose Petrossian because she is a successful leader and entrepreneur in the biotechnology industry. He added Petrossian will focus on developing the growing biotech and health care sector in Los Angeles and lead initiatives to mentor girls and women interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

Petrossian originally tested positive for ovarian cancer in 2016, but doctors later diagnosed her with endometriosis after she underwent surgery. She said she thinks she has suffered from the disease since she was a teenager.

“I've had pain ever since I was a teenager but would never admit it,” Petrossian said. “I had at least three instances (when) I went into anaphylactic shock from my allergies, and that was my first indication that something was wrong.”

Petrossian said endometriosis is the most overlooked women's health issue in the world, partly because it is currently only diagnosed by testing lesions removed through surgery.

“It's quite shocking that such a high percentage of girls and women are walking around with it and don't know,” she said.

Petrossian started EndoCyclic Therapeutics because she was frustrated that the only available treatments for endometriosis were invasive surgery and hormone options, which make many women violently ill, she said.

Instead, EndoCyclic Therapeutics is using small molecules that invade endometriosis disease cells directly, according to the company's website.

Petrossian said she had a passion in high school for science, and how math and chemistry can explain biological processes in the human body.

Tina Petrossian, Petrossian's mother, said her daughter frequently volunteered in hospitals in high school.

“I always believed she was going to cure cancer, or whatever she decided to focus on,” Tina Petrossian said. “When she focuses on something there's absolutely nothing that can stand in her way.”

While pursuing her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at UCLA, Tanya Petrossian worked in the lab of biochemistry professor Steven Clarke.

Tanya Petrossian said while working in the lab, she identified more than 200 genes translated for methyltransferases, enzymes that control the expression of certain genes and may have implications for treating cancer, aging and neurological disorders.

Clarke said Tanya Petrossian was a driven student who was able to use genomic data to make correct mathematical predictions about the genes' activity.

“Her work opened the field up for others to make more discoveries,” he said. “Being bright, hardworking and an outstanding communicator was a combination that was very successful for her.”

Clarke added Tanya Petrossian's papers have become classics in the field and have been widely cited in scientific journals.

As an EIR for Garcetti, Tanya Petrossian said she plans to work with the mayor's office to create a network for female professionals, graduate students, undergraduates and grade school students to provide girls interested in STEM careers with guidance and mentorship.

"Out of 100 (undergraduate students), 12 will graduate with a STEM major and only three will continue to work in a STEM field 10 years later," Tanya Petrossian said. "I always point to my mom as my mentor, and other people I've (acquainted with) along the way, as one of the reasons I'm a successful businesswoman in the STEM field."

Tanya Petrossian added she wants to bring more nontraditional investors, who often invest in apps or tech devices, to the biotech and health care industries.

She also said she plans to be one of the clinical trial patients for the treatment EndoCyclic Therapeutics is developing.

"Girls and women who are suffering from endometriosis often feel like (they're) not heard," Tanya Petrossian said. "But we hear you, and we are working to get it addressed."

LA Observed

Eli Broad retiring from public life right now

By Kevin Roderick

The philanthropist, arts patron and Los Angeles civic leader Eli Broad summoned the New York Times bureau chief in LA to his office on Thursday to announce that he was stepping away from his longtime public role. "Now. Right now," Broad told the NYT's Adam Nagourney. "I am just tired. I want to spend more time with my family. Catch up on my reading." Broad is 84. "We have been thinking about this for a long time," he said. "The time has come."

More than once in recent years, Broad has made it known that his role as behind-the-scenes power broker, counselor and financier on any number of Los Angeles issues and causes would not go on forever and that the city needed to develop new leaders. In the NYT interview, Broad suggested the names of some other wealthy men who might step in to fill his place in Los Angeles civic affairs. They included, per the NYT, Clippers owner Steve Ballmer, Disney chief executive Bob Iger, Hollywood mogul Jeffrey Katzenberg and Nicolas Berggruen, the philanthropist and investor who is building a home for his think tank in Sepulveda Pass.

From the NYT story:

It is difficult to overstate Mr. Broad's importance to Los Angeles. His vast fortune has shaped the city, from its arts and medical worlds to its reinvigorated downtown. He has lived here for 52 years, since coming from Detroit as a young entrepreneur. He has been a confidant of mayors and governors, an aggressive advocate for charter schools and a heavy contributor to medical causes, particularly stem-cell research. He has given away or pledged \$4 billion in his life. The endowment for the Broad Foundations, his main philanthropic arm, is \$2.5 billion. His current net worth is \$7.3 billion, which he made in construction and insurance.

Mr. Broad has promised to give away 75 percent of his fortune. He has, at times, been a polarizing figure, fighting with teachers unions over charter schools and at one point feuding with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art over construction costs for a wing built there in his name.

Although Mr. Broad said he considered the money given to education and medical research his biggest accomplishment, his contributions to the city's art and cultural world may well prove the most enduring legacy — particularly for Los Angeles's now-thriving downtown.

Mr. Broad said he reached the decision in recent weeks after long discussions with his wife, Edythe, who he said has long urged him to retire. Mr. Broad has prostate cancer, diagnosed more than a decade ago, which is in remission, and he undergoes daily physical therapy for intense back pain, though he said his health was not a factor in his decision.

The NYT said that the "practical ramifications of Mr. Broad's decision may be limited," citing his naming last year of Gerun Riley to oversee his investments in art, science and educational causes. Four new members to the board of directors of the Broad Foundation have also been named recently. The Broad Museum on Bunker Hill is going strong, "having drawn 1.5 million visitors since the doors opened" in Sept. 2015.

During Tribune Company ownership of the Los Angeles Times, Broad engaged in discussions about being part of an ownership group that would attempt to buy the paper or move it under local non-profit ownership. Nothing ever came of the talks, and it was notable that for his big announcement on Thursday he went to the New York Times, not his hometown paper. (Though he certainly has been active in New York and other cities, the Broads live in Brentwood and his offices are in Century City.)

LA Times assistant managing editor Shelby Grad tweeted the news about Broad with a link to the NYT.

Later in the day, the LAT also posted a story that cited the New York paper and was forced to include this sentence:

"Broad was not available for an interview Thursday." The lede:

Billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad has been a driving force in the intellectual and cultural life of Los Angeles, pouring money into its universities, championing charter schools, and helping to reshape its downtown.

Now he is stepping back from day-to-day operations at the foundation that bears his name.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation posted a release with the news as well.

Eli Broad announced today that he is retiring from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and handing over day-to-day operations to the foundation's president, Gerun Riley.

Broad, who co-founded the foundation with his wife Edythe, will remain a trustee of the foundation. He will also continue to serve on the board of directors of The Broad museum in downtown Los Angeles.

"At age 84, I have decided the time has come for me to step back," Broad said. "Though I'm in great health, I am eager to spend more time with my family."

Broad appointed Riley, formerly the foundation's senior vice president and a 14-year member of its team, as his successor last year.

"Edye and I have the utmost confidence in Gerun's vision, leadership and ability to carry the foundation's work forward.," Broad said.

In 1999, after merging SunAmerica with AIG, the Broads dedicated themselves fulltime to philanthropy. Over the course of their lifetimes, they have given more than \$4 billion to support K-12 public schools, advance scientific and medical research and bring contemporary art to as wide an audience as possible.

The Broad Foundations, which include The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and The Broad Art Foundation, were established to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. For more information, visit www.broadfoundation.org.

"His imagination, tenacity and generosity have helped shape our city, from the arts to education to architecture," Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement. "Eli is only retiring, which means we'll have him in our midst for many years to come. I'll be calling on him often."

City Council:

Councilman Huizar says his wife is weighing her own bid for city office

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-huizar-wife-20171012-story.html>

LA Councilmen move to protect street vendors in parks

<https://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2017/10/12/59631/la-councilmen-move-to-protect-street-vendors-in-pa/>

Street vending in parks would be almost legal under new proposal

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/11/76550/la-city-proposal-aims-to-remove-criminal-penalties/>

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Grants Awarded To Make New Kid's Play Zones Across LA

<https://patch.com/california/los-angeles/grants-awarded-make-new-kids-play-zones-across-l>

Halprin's Reimagining Of Urban Parks On Display Throughout LA

<http://jewishjournal.com/culture/arts/225780/halprins-reimagining-of-urban-parks-on-display-throughout-la/>

Griffith Park Ghost Train Opens

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Weekend-Griffith-Park-Ghost-Train-Opens-450630213.html>

Economic Development:

64 story tower near FIGat7th could get underway by 2019

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16465972/downtown-la-development-skyscraper-figueroa>

Plans for a 21 story tower dropped from massive Figueroa Street project

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16467074/fig-development-exposition-park-tower>

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

Ethics hearing for LAUSD's Ref Rodriguez, his cousin could happen next year

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/ethics-hearing-for-lausds-ref-rodriguez-his-cousin-could-happen-next-year/>

Educators from Los Angeles and Orange counties are among California Teachers of the Year

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/11/educators-from-los-angeles-and-orange-counties-among-california-teachers-of-the-year/>

Students get behind the scenes training for technical theater jobs

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/12/76534/students-get-behind-the-scenes-training-for-techni/>

Proof! Neighborhood Councils Are Protectors Of The Community

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14165-proof-neighborhood-councils-are-protectors-of-the-community>

Homelessness & Poverty:

These small pods could bring a big solution for LA County's homeless crisis

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/these-small-pods-could-bring-a-big-solution-for-la-countys-homeless-crisis/>

Housing:

Housing For Trafficking Victims

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/327-nc-politics/14173-housing-for-trafficking-victims>

Human trafficking refuge from abuse: LA Council's rescue plan

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/12/human-trafficking-refuge-from-abuse-la-councils-rescue-plan/>

LA Is Doing Too Well For High Rents To Fall

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/los-angeles-rent-forecast-sees-continued-increases-8743670>

Study: LA, OC Rent Increases Continue Into 2019

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/study-rent-increases-into-2019/>

Los Angeles prefab company unveils its first sleek unit

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16459568/prefab-homes-company-cover-backyard-studios>

Trying to buy an affordable entry level house in California? Good luck!

<https://mynews1a.com/business/2017/10/12/housing-affordability-diminishes-for-buyers-struggling-to-get-into-the-market/>

Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights & Equity:

These Dinners For DACA Make It Easier For People To Make A Difference

<http://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/dinners-for-daca/>

Planning & Land Use Management:

Planning Commission backs big Westlake development but asks for more affordable housing

<https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/12/16464896/lake-on-wilshire-development-planning-commission>

Los Angeles: Illegal Planning Capital Of The World

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14176-los-angeles-illegal-planning-capital-of-the-world>

Public Safety:

Argument Leads To Victim Being Fatally Shot In Back In South LA Neighborhoods

<http://ktla.com/2017/10/12/argument-leads-to-victim-being-fatally-shot-in-back-in-south-la-neighborhood/>

Man, 30, shot, hurt near South Los Angeles Walgreens Pharmacy

<https://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/10/12/man-30-shot-hurt-near-south-los-angeles-walgreens-pharmacy/>

1 Hospitalized After Shooting In Baldwin Hills

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/video/animals/1-hospitalized-after-shooting-in-baldwin-hills/vp-AAthW5>

LAPD helicopter makes emergency landing at Dodger Stadium

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-dodgers-stadium-landing-20171012-story.html>

Woman's body washes ashore in Venice Beach

<http://abc7.com/womans-body-washes-ashore-venice-beach/2524126/>

Body Of Woman Found On Venice Beach

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Venice-Beach-Body-Investigation-450635433.html>

Bod Washes Ashore In Venice

<https://yovenice.com/2017/10/12/33396/>

Valley first responders praised for getting the call, acting quickly, sacrifice

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/valley-first-responders-praised-for-getting-the-call-acting-quickly-sacrifice/>

LAPD seeks help finding brazen Hollywood burglar

<http://abc7.com/lapd-seeks-help-finding-hollywood-burglar/2526603/>

Police Seeks Man Who Burglarized Hollywood Apartment

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Unidentified-Burglar-Hollywood-Police-to-Ask-for-Publics-Help-450712113.html>

10 months after Valley teen's assault, bill targeting social media driven attacks becomes state law

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/10-months-after-valley-teens-assault-bill-targeting-social-media-driven-attacks-becomes-state-law/>

Security Costs end Wildly Popular Haunted House In Sherman Oaks

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/boney-island-ends/>

Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations:

Billboard company owner faces \$15,000 fine over political donations

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ethics-fine-20171012-story.html>

Trade, Travel & Tourism:

Container Volumes Rise At Ports Of Long Beach, Los Angeles

<http://abusinessjournal.com/news/2017/oct/12/container-volumes-rise-ports-long-beach-los-angeles/>

Clean Air Action Plan will reshape our ports-for the better or the worse

<http://www.ocregister.com/2017/10/12/clean-air-action-plan-will-reshape-our-ports-for-the-better-or-the-worse/>

Recovered SpaceX booster rocket arrives at the Port of Los Angeles

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/12/recovered-spacex-booster-rocket-arrives-at-the-port-of-los-angeles/>

Toyota's hydrogen fuel cell trucks are now moving goods around the Port of LA

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/10/12/16461412/toyota-hydrogen-fuel-cell-truck-port-la>

LAX first responders will start arriving on two wheels, not four

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/12/lax-first-responders-will-start-arriving-on-two-wheels-not-four/>

Qantas commits to use biofuels at LAX from 2020

<https://www.flightglobal.com/news/articles/qantas-commits-to-use-biofuels-at-lax-from-2020-442142/>

Metro:

Metro Urges Manners With Japanese Pop Inspired Videos

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/metro-urges-manners-new-videos/>

Gold Line and Metrolink battle for riders

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/gold-line-and-metrolink-battle-for-rail-riders/>

Mulholland Institute Exec Director Opposes Metro Rail Site

<http://www.sfvbj.com/news/2017/oct/12/mulholland-institute-exec-director-opposes-metro-r/>

City of Los Angeles:

Eli Broad, Patron of Los Angeles, To Step Down From His Philanthropy

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/12/arts/eli-broad-foremost-patron-of-los-angeles-to-step-down-from-his-philanthropy.html>

Eli Broad, top philanthropist and power broker, is stepping back from his foundation work

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-eli-broad-steps-back-20171012-story.html>

Philanthropist Eli Broad announces his retirement

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/12/philanthropist-eli-broad-announces-his-retirement/>

LA Philanthropist Eli Broad To Retire

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/12/la-philanthropist-eli-broad-to-retire/>

LA Mega Patron Eli Broad To Retire From Philanthropic Work

http://laist.com/2017/10/12/broad_retires.php

Billionaire Eli Broad Is Retiring From Public Life At Age 84

<http://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/eli-broad-retirement/>

No matter how bad it gets, 8 reasons the Chargers will never leave Los Angeles

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/chargers/2017/10/12/no-matter-how-bad-gets-8-reasons-chargers-never-leave-los-angeles/757566001/>

Kings broadcaster Bob Miller to be honored with Staples statue

<http://abc7.com/sports/kings-broadcaster-miller-to-be-honored-with-statue/2525703/>

Predictable Cash & Endorsements Fuel The Lifer Pipeline For Assembly District 51

<http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14171-predictable-cash-endorsements-fuel-the-lifer-pipeline-for-assembly-district-51>



Erica Liepmann <erica.liepmann@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]> Thu, Sep 21, 2017 at 3:31 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[REDACTED]> Carolyn Hissong <[REDACTED]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS
<myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Start up fund for affordable housing in LA doubles in size

<https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/09/20/75808/start-up-fund-for-affordable-housing-in-la-doubles/>

To Raise Funds For Transit, Denver Can Follow The Lead Of Seattle And LA

<http://denver.streetsblog.org/2017/09/20/to-raise-funds-for-transit-denver-can-follow-the-lead-of-seattle-and-la/>

New fight in California water wars: How to update old system (IN PICTURE ONLY)

<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/business/article174291856.html>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti thinks city doesn't really need the Chargers

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15,000 buildings need earthquake retrofitting in Los Angeles

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Change In Venice Boulevard Divides Commuters

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Wilmington resident the first in 23 years to serve on harbor commission

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Editorial: Entitled drivers are getting in the way of California's climate change efforts

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KPCC

Start up fund for affordable housing in LA doubles in size

By Rina Paltra

In preparation for what could be an affordable housing building boom in Los Angeles, a group of philanthropists has doubled a key loan program for developers.

The Supportive Housing Loan program, which in recent years has provided low-interest, flexible loans to affordable housing developers, has received a \$30 million infusion from the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Kresge Foundation, and Weingart Foundation.

That move effectively doubles the amount of start-up funding available to nonprofits that build permanent supportive housing for homeless and low-income people in Los Angeles.

"This fund is critically important," said Dora Leong Gallo, CEO of A Community of Friends, one of the area's most prolific affordable housing developers. "The hardest thing about starting a project, after you find a location is the financing to actually buy the property and to begin the work designing it, doing your due diligence, environmental studies, soils."

Other sources of help — such as construction loans, low-income housing tax credits, and federal and local funds — don't kick in until construction starts.

"So there's about a year and a half where you're spending money before these funds are available," said Stephanie Klasky-Gamer, president and CEO of L.A. Family Housing.

The infusion is particularly key, she said, as funds from Proposition HHH, a ten-year, \$1.2 billion city bond measure,

become available.

That funding is expected to help developers in Los Angeles produce up to 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless, as well as low-income housing over the next decade.

"It's great to see new partners stepping up," Klasky-Gamer said.

Mayor Eric Garcetti, in a statement, also praised the foundations.

"Every Angeleno deserves safe housing that they can afford — it is a basic human right," he said. "When the public and private sectors join forces to serve the most vulnerable in our community, our ability to build housing and deliver services can reach new heights."

Denver Streetsblog

To Raise Funds For Transit, Denver Can't Follow The Lead Of Seattle And LA

By David Sachs

The Hancock administration is working on big plans to expand and improve the city's bus and train network with its Denverlight planning initiative. One of the key questions going forward is how to pay for these upgrades. RTD, the region's transit provider, doesn't have the resources on its own to provide all the transit service that Colorado's densest population center needs.

Denver's November bond measure won't be enough either. It will generate \$431 million for streets and transportation, which will be a boon for sidewalks, bike lanes, and the East Colfax bus rapid transit project, but pales in comparison to the resources other cities are generating.

A ballot measure enacted by voters in metro Seattle last November will raise \$54 billion for transit and complementary walking and biking connections. In Los Angeles, 71 percent of voters approved Measure M, which will generate at least \$120 billion for transportation.

Denver could learn a thing or two from the campaigns to overhaul the transportation systems in these cities. Fortunately, leaders from both cities are in town this week for Rail-Volution, a national conference about all things transit. Streetsblog heard directly from the people who helped pass those ballot measures in LA and Seattle — here's a digest.

Denver needs a political champion

The first thing you need is a leader dedicated to getting the job done in the face of inevitable push-back, said Phil Washington, CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. (Washington formerly helmed RTD and oversaw the implementation of Denver's FasTracks program.)

"Everyone knows you need a political champion when trying to do something like this," Washington said. "Mayor [Eric] Garcetti was that political champion."

A transit ballot measure would also need the support of Denver community leaders. An earlier ballot measure in LA, Measure J, failed, Washington said, in part because proponents didn't have important constituencies on board. Neither black churches nor the Sierra Club supported Measure J. "I made a point to go out and reach out to minority communities — specifically the African American clergy community in south LA," Washington said. "We actually asked and convinced the African American clergy in support of Measure M."

The Sierra Club also came around on Measure M because unlike Measure J, which included a lot of funds for roads, it focused heavily on transit.

Good transit is a "must-have" not a "nice-to-have"

People who don't ride transit don't always grasp how essential it is. They see it as an amenity for a few, not a cornerstone of economic prosperity, opportunity, and fairness that benefits the whole city. If that's how most voters view transit, a big ballot measure will be in trouble.

"One of the common pieces of push-back we got is that transit is a shiny nice-to-have, not a must-have," said Abigail Doerr, who helped get the Seattle region's tax passed as advocacy director for Transportation Choices Coalition. "We had to make sure that we were making the case that this wasn't a nice-to-have but a must-have for our region to prosper and move forward."

In a city like Denver, there simply isn't enough space for bigger roads. We need to make more efficient use of the street space we have — and that means moving people with transit, not cars. Even Denverites who never ride transit will benefit from the continued growth that good transit will make possible for years to come.

"We talked a lot about this idea of leaving an infrastructure inheritance for our children like the infrastructure our forefathers left us," Washington said. "And that actually resonated."

Be honest about congestion

Transit does not eliminate congestion. But frequent buses and trains with dedicated right-of-way give people options to bypass it.

"'Removing traffic' was not something that we could say," said Jessica Duboff, who helped run LA's campaign with the Center for Business Advocacy. "It actually isn't true. What we were doing — building light rail — won't reduce the amount of cars on the road. As our region grows, it's not going to get less congested. So we were very disciplined about saying this is a reliable option to get out of traffic and get to where you need to go. It's a small distinction but a really important one."

Denver's traffic isn't even that bad compared to other cities, despite the hyperbole you may have heard. The question is whether the city will invest in solutions before it gets much worse.

"If you don't like what congestion you've been facing the last five years, you really need to think about where it's heading, and get ahead of it to the extent that you can," said Peter Rogoff, CEO of Sound Transit in the Seattle region. "And that's

what really expected our board of directors to go big. The core catalyst in our region, I believe, was the fact that congestion had worsened to a community that was not accustomed to it."

The Comeback

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti thinks city doesn't really need the Chargers

By Jesse Kramer

The Chargers have begun their first season as a Los Angeles team (despite currently playing in Carson, CA), and a change in location hasn't brought a change in luck. They've lost each of their first two games on missed field goals in the final seconds, dropping them to 7-20 in games decided by one possession going back to the start of the 2015 season. The team's continued misfortune has left spurned fans in San Diego ecstatic — a local Mexican restaurant is giving away free tacos every time the Chargers lose — while the folks in Los Angeles don't really seem to care. Sunday's game at the StubHub Center was lightly attended, and those who did attend got to see a banner disrespecting team owner Dean Spanos flown over the stadium.

While the lack of enthusiasm is historic, it's not surprising. Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti even admitted in a recent interview on The Dan Patrick Show the city would've been just fine without the Chargers:

"We embrace any team that comes, we're certainly happy to have the Chargers in L.A. But I think we could have been happy with just one [team], too."

That one team is the Rams, who beat the Chargers to Los Angeles by one season and went 4-12 in their inaugural year. Garcetti is a self-professed Rams fan, so maybe that's why he doesn't care much for the Chargers coming to town. The Rams, who spent nearly 50 years in L.A. before moving to St. Louis in 1995, have averaged over 58,000 in attendance through the first two games of the year. The Chargers barely broke 25,000 last week. Granted, the StubHub Center (capacity 27,000) is a significantly smaller venue than Memorial Coliseum, and the Rams' attendance has taken plenty of criticism of its own, but the Chargers couldn't even fill their tiny stadium for their first-ever game as a "Los Angeles" team. So it seems Garcetti has a pretty good handle on his constituents' football fandom.

ABC Los Angeles

15,000 buildings need earthquake retrofitting in Los Angeles

By Darsha Phillips

After a massive earthquake struck central Mexico, horrifying images of collapsed buildings emerged and had many Los Angeles residents wondering if that could happen here. One expert said yes.

"This is a vivid reminder - these videos we're seeing - that this could happen here," said Dr. Ken Hudnut, with the U.S. Geological Survey.

A recent study said 15,000 structures in the city have been identified as vulnerable for collapse during an earthquake. The bulk of the buildings are called "soft story structures."

"A lot like many of the apartment buildings you see in and around Los Angeles, where you have parking on the ground level or maybe one level below ground," he said.

Hudnut used a model to show what could happen to the buildings during an earthquake.

"When an earthquake hits and (support beams) get sheared, the vertical beams don't have that shear resistance and then the whole thing can potentially collapse," Hudnut said.

A relatively simple retrofit - metal bracing - can fix the vulnerability.

"Now, in a future earthquake, the whole thing is incredibly rigid. It doesn't buckle and bend and drop anymore. It could save a lot of lives," Hudnut said.

The city has enacted seismic retrofit ordinances, mandating that vulnerable buildings put in the needed reinforcements. Building owners have several years to make the adjustments, but city leaders hope the work is done sooner rather than later.

"To building owners who are waiting - the time is now. Would you rather have something that is worth nothing because it's destroyed, and even worse, you lose lives? Or invest now," Mayor Eric Garcetti said.

To find out if a building you live or work in is in need of retrofitting, you may check the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety website or call 311.

The Corsair

Change In Venice Boulevard Divides Commuters

By Harry Philipps

"It makes it a lot less a highway and more a parking lot," Gigi Grase.

Meet Clayton Chancy. Chancy has lived in Venice for two years and commutes on Venice Boulevard to his work in Calabasas every day. That changed, however, when Venice Boulevard lost a driving lane. He now drives up through Mar Vista to get onto the 10 Freeway, which adds between 15 to 20 minutes to his daily commute.

"This really adds up and takes me away from my wife when I'm off work," Chancy said.

Los Angeles Councilmember Mike Bonin and the Great Streets Initiative worked together to remove one of the three traffic lanes on Venice Boulevard between Inglewood Boulevard and Beethoven Street three months ago, aiming to improve safety for bicyclists. The city replaced the removed lane for parking space, and designated the old parking space next to the curb as a bicycle lane enclosed with plastic barriers. These changes were made in addition to four new stop lights and a pedestrian crossing that were created on Venice Boulevard at the cross streets of Mountain View Avenue, Ocean View Avenue, Boise Street and Meier Street

The Great Streets Initiative is a program founded by Mayor Eric Garcetti, which, according to their website, aims "to help re-imagine neighborhood centers, one main street at a time." The website also includes information on the investments they made to date on Venice Blvd. These investments included installing Mar Vista Great Street streetlight banners, conducting sidewalk and tree maintenance, initiating weekly overnight street sweeping, and installing 14 new bike racks and 13 new trash and recycling bins. According to the Great Streets Initiative, the changes are estimated to cost \$1.8 million.

Like Chancy, many disliked the changes that happened on Venice Blvd, including John Saletra, the manager of Tattoo Lounge on Venice Blvd. Saletra has been a member of the tattoo shop for 17 years, while the shop has been a presence in the Mar Vista community for 24 years. The Tattoo Lounge has giant glass windows in front of the shop, where most of the artists can see the traffic 24/7.

While Chancy is only inconvenienced by the newly installed bike lane, the tattoo shop suffered tremendously, with its business dropping 30 percent after the changes took place. Saletra has also noticed that these changes have increased the likelihood of accidents between bicycles and pedestrians. He documented this change by taking pictures of these accidents, because they often go unreported if nobody calls an ambulance. He has even seen cars drive in between the barrier and the curb and enter the enclosed bike lane.

Clients have let the tattoo shop employees know that they come in less often due to the changes in Venice Boulevard. Saletra mentioned receiving complaints from clients who can no longer access the shop. "They can't get to us, or they are trying to find us, or Waze is rerouting them different streets to try and find us." He has even talked to Councilmember Bonin personally. Saletra brought up the lane reduction causing only one drivable lane when someone is trying to park, causing massive traffic. In response, Bonin told Saletra that he has data proving that Saletra is wrong.

The Tattoo Lounge was not the only business affected by the lane reduction. Shane Gudlow is the business owner of Time Warp Music and Time Warp Records, both of which are on Venice Boulevard. The lane reduction has negatively affected both of his businesses. He also had numerous customers telling him that they are avoiding the area and not coming in as often because of increased traffic.

Gigi Grase, a Venice local for 20 years, felt that the lane reduction was not well-thought out, saying these changes would have been much more useful if implemented on Washington Boulevard. "Washington Boulevard is wider and a little bit less trafficked," Grase said.

In contrast, Grase said that "Venice Boulevard ... is our only conduit from the beach to the city." She argued that these small changes to only four city blocks have an extensive impact. "The repercussions go for miles, and it makes it [Venice Boulevard] a lot less a highway and more a parking lot," Grase said.

Even cyclists felt conflicted with the changes. Luis Jauregui, an SMC Student Services Specialist at the Bundy campus, is a bicyclist and a motorist. As a bicyclist, Jauregui felt that the enclosed bike lane made him safer from cars, but could be annoying when he is driving, especially when he is in a rush. "I like the idea, but it could be worked on," said Jauregui. "I do like the idea of a bigger bike lane or a buffer zone, but it doesn't seem that practical right now." Instead of creating a buffer zone between bicyclists and cars, he felt installing new bike lanes on streets that currently do not have any would be more productive.

People's frustrations have motivated them to form a coalition in order to reverse the changes. Restore Venice Blvd is a coalition of individuals who are opposed to the lane reduction on Venice Boulevard. Their website states, "We don't want a great street, we want a smart street!" During the Mar Vista Art Walk on Thursday, September 7th, two volunteers, Selena Inouye and Sheri Odere, collected signatures for a petition while informing people about how the lane reductions are harmful.

Others, however, like the change. Enzo Loconte, a volunteer at Bikerowave for seven years, is in favor of it. "The life and safety of pedestrians and people who use the sidewalk should take priority [over] commute time," Loconte said. He also mentions that unless people can show hard evidence about traffic and emergency vehicle response times being slowed, he doesn't want to hear people complaining about it.

Many are indifferent or neutral on the topic. Andrea Diaz, a SMC business major, is personally not bothered by the change because it does not affect her but is aware that other individuals are. The Venice Neighborhood Council has not taken a position on the matter. The Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, Councilmember Mike Bonin, and Mayor Eric Garcetti did not respond to a request for comment.

Daily Breeze

Wilmington resident the first in 23 years to serve on harbor commission

By Donna Littlejohn

Community advocate Lucia Moreno-Linares was confirmed Wednesday as the first Wilmington resident in nearly a quarter century to take a seat on the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners.

In a unanimous 13-0 vote, the Los Angeles City Council approved the appointment by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to replace Patricia Castellanos, who recently stepped down from the commission overseeing the Port of Los Angeles to pursue a new career opportunity.

"I'm a resident of Wilmington and I live the consequences of (being near) a port that is so successful," she told the council in her testimony. "I also see the benefits we all have."

The last Wilmington resident who served on the five-member panel — from 1993-94 — was the late Gertrude Schwab. She and her husband, Bill, were longtime community activists and fought tirelessly to persuade the port to build the \$2.5 million Banning's Landing Community Center on Wilmington's waterfront during the 1990s.

Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino said Moreno-Linares comes from "a rock-star family. ... I can testify that she

As CEO of the Family Federal Credit Union in Wilmington, she has helped individuals and small businesses gain financial stability within the community. She began working for the credit union in 1983 and became CEO in 1992.

In September 2016, Family FCU merged with Self-Help Federal Credit Union, where she now serves as branch manager. She also is a member of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the YMCA Board of Directors. Born in Baja California Sur, Mexico, Moreno-Linares immigrated with her family to Wilmington in 1971. She and her husband, Heriberto F. Linares, have two adult children.

"I look to bringing input (to the commission) as a resident, as someone who is in touch with large pockets of our population that are both happy with what happens at the port and those who are challenged by what happens at the port. ... All my life I've been active in my community as a volunteer, not because I have a 'good heart,' (though) I try to be good, but I live in Wilmington, I worship in Wilmington. My car has low mileage because my life revolves around (Wilmington)."

Political consultant and strategist Sergio Carrillo, speaking as a fellow member of the Rotary Club of Wilmington, told council members that Moreno-Linares exemplified the club's motto of "service above self."

"We're excited that we have a Wilmington resident serving on the commission," he said. "She understands our community and the impacts of the port. The port is a huge economic engine, but sometimes we choke on that engine."

Moreno-Linares said among her goals as a commissioner will be to further environmental improvements while also finding ways to support some of the struggling truck drivers who must meet the new standards on their vehicles.

"You can't leave behind those people who depend on the port for their livelihoods," she said. "It's a delicate balance and there is no simple answer for that."

The Hill

West Coast states eye early presidential primaries

By Reid Wilson

Democratic candidates considering a run for president in 2020 will have to make their case early to voters on the liberal Left Coast, if officials in key western states get their way.

Officials in California, Oregon and Washington are taking steps to move their presidential primary contests toward the front of the nominating calendar. They say they want voters in their states to have more influence over the candidates the two parties will nominate, and holding earlier contests is key to expanding that influence.

"If you go earlier, you have more opportunity to have some influence and have your voters' voices heard," said Kim Wyman (R), Washington's secretary of state.

Wyman has asked the Washington state legislature to move the presidential primary to the second Tuesday in March, just two weeks after the conclusion of an initial round of nominating contests in the early states of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson (R) wrote to his legislators this week asking them to approve a similar move. Wyman said she and Richardson have spoken about creating a Western States primary to bolster their influence. In California, state legislators approved a bill this month that would move their 2020 primary — for both the presidential and down-ballot contests — to the first Tuesday in March.

"California's not just the most populous state in the nation, we're the most diverse state in the nation, we represent the largest economy in the nation, and I think we should have a much more significant voice in who the next president of the United States is," said California Secretary of State Alex Padilla (D), who backed the move to an earlier primary.

Gov. Jerry Brown (D) has not said how he will act on the presidential primary bill, among hundreds of measures awaiting his signature or veto after the state legislature wrapped up their work for the year last week.

The initial forays into the messy world of presidential nominating calendars are only the first moves in what is likely to be years of gamesmanship between states for added influence.

State legislators typically work with leaders of the two major political parties to coordinate primary or caucus dates, and the state parties must win approval from the Republican and Democratic National Committees before they can change their election dates.

The DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee will pass initial rules governing the party's 2020 nominating process sometime next year. States will be required to submit plans for allocating delegates by the summer of 2019, giving California and other states jockeying for position two full years to get their primary or caucus plans in order.

The RNC has a similar process, though if President Trump seeks reelection his operatives are likely to wield control over the internal party debate.

Supporters in all three West Coast states bemoaned their lack of influence on the 2016 presidential contests. Republicans in Oregon and Washington didn't get the chance to vote until May, after Trump was already the party's presumptive nominee. Californians held their primary in June.

Democrats in Washington allocated their delegates in a March 26 caucus, held independently of the state's primary, when they chose Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) over Hillary Clinton by a three-to-one margin. Oregon voters chose Sanders just before Clinton became the presumptive nominee, but she captured the title before California voters went to the polls on June 7.

Josh Putnam, a political scientist who keeps tabs on the party nominating process at the Frontloading HQ blog, said both Oregon and Washington face hurdles to moving up in the process.

Oregon currently holds its presidential primary in conjunction with its state and federal primaries. Moving the state and federal primaries to an earlier date would conflict with the legislative session, while splitting the contests would lead to millions in new costs at a time when the state budget is already squeezed.

In Washington, Democrats have allocated their delegates through caucuses run by the party rather than a primary run by

the state since 1992. Wyman, a Republican, would have to convince Democrats to make the state's primary something more than a beauty contest.

Even if California moves to the head of the pack, the West Coast's importance in the Democratic primary will grow. The Golden State accounts for about 12 percent of the pledged delegates at stake under Democratic rules.

Not every California Democrat is enthusiastic about giving their voters a bigger say. Some Democrats worry that giving California voters more influence over the nominating process would force their party's ultimate nominee too far to the left. The state's Democratic electorate is among the most liberal in the nation.

"There is no doubt in anyone's mind that California, whether you like it or not, whether you applaud this fact or not, is abberationally liberal compared to the rest of the country," said Garry South, a Democratic strategist in Los Angeles who worked for presidential candidates Al Gore in 2000 and Joe Lieberman in 2004. "To have Democrats running for president come into California and have to essentially conform their campaign to the politics of California I think is somewhat problematic."

The state's massive population, which includes more registered voters than the total population of 46 of the other 49 states, would mean a candidate would be forced to spend millions on paid television advertising to get their message out. Padilla, California's chief elections official, dismissed concerns that a megastate like California would be a burden on candidates who might otherwise catch fire in smaller states, where retail campaigning is more practical.

"We're not proposing to leapfrog Iowa or New Hampshire or Nevada or South Carolina for that matter, so I think there's going to be a lot to be said for candidates who earn support and build momentum," he told The Hill.

Some see California's move as an effort to bolster homegrown favorites. At least two California Democrats — Sen. Kamala Harris and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti — are said to be contemplating White House bids.

But history is not on their side: The Democratic Party has never nominated a candidate from a state west of Nebraska, the home of William Jennings Bryant, or Texas, the home of Lyndon Baines Johnson. California Gov. Jerry Brown failed to win his home state in any of his three presidential bids, in 1976, 1980 and 1992.

Harris's office said the freshman senator had not taken a position on the measure to move the state's primary closer to the front of the pack.

LA Times

Here's why Gov Brown should junk the presidential election bills on his desk

By George Skelton

Two presidential election bills are on Gov. Jerry Brown's desk, sent to him by the Democratic Legislature. Both should be tossed in the trash.

No doubt I'm in the minority on this. These bills do offer some fun, even if they're flawed.

The first bill moves up California's presidential primary from June to March. Great idea. But it also moves up the state primary along with it. A horrible idea.

The second measure would require all presidential candidates to release their tax returns for the last five years. Anyone who refused wouldn't be allowed on the California ballot. That's a sharp poke at Trump, who in 2016 was the first presidential candidate in 40 years not to release his taxes.

Yes, watching Trump squirm would be entertaining. And maybe the tax information would be useful for some voters. But even if the disclosure requirement were constitutional — and there's substantial doubt about that — it's a crummy precedent.

What would be next? A requirement that every candidate release a thorough health fitness report disclosing all past illnesses? Make the candidates pledge to campaign in California for at least 10 days? And how would red states retaliate? Force every candidate to disclose whether they've ever voted for a tax increase?

As for the presidential primary, it definitely should be moved up so our votes mean something in the nominating process. Of course, we've tried that in the past with minimum impact. Other states just yawned and moved up their primaries, too. At one time — roughly half a century ago — California's presidential primaries were huge deals. In 1964 and 1972 they actually decided nominations.

But they gradually became hollow shells. The nominations were sewed up much earlier than in previous contests. Pipsqueak states got all the attention while we watched from the nosebleed seats.

Then for four presidential elections starting in 1996, California tried to become a player again by holding early primaries. Results were mixed. Finally, in 2012, we gave it up and fell back to June inconsequence.

Another stab at an early primary, however, does make some sense. It's immaterial which candidates might be helped. It certainly would benefit contenders with lots of campaign money to spend in this gigantic state.

And it would benefit any California candidate, although there currently aren't any promising prospects for 2020. Sorry, Sen. Kamala Harris and Mayor Eric Garcetti. Maybe later.

What's most important for Californians is that they'd be voting in real time when the nominations were still up for grabs. We'd be participants rather than spectators.

The problem with this bill, SB 568, is that it also would move the state primary up to March — in every election year, regardless of whether there was a presidential contest. That would mean early voting in 100 legislative and 53 congressional races and maybe a U.S. Senate seat. And in nonpresidential years, there'd be an early primary for governor and other statewide offices.

They'd all have to start campaigning full bore the previous Halloween. Then, after the primary, there'd be an eight-month general election campaign. Spare us. Think voters hate politicians now? Wait until after all that spinning and demagoguery.

What's needed is to keep the state primary in June. Opponents of that idea point to the added \$100-million cost for a separate presidential primary. But the annual state budget totals \$183 billion. Surely \$25 million can be set aside each year for a timely presidential primary once every four years.

Opponents also contend that there'd be a low turnout in the June primary if voters had already cast ballots for president in March. Could be. So what?

Truth is, what Democrats fear is that a low June turnout would hurt their ballot propositions. Also, a March primary is an incumbent-protection plan for both parties because challengers would have less time to become known to voters. So dump this bill. Pass another next year that provides for separate state and presidential primaries. Granted, that's unlikely.

But the bill to force release of a presidential candidate's tax returns, SB 149, is constitutionally dicey. The U.S. Constitution sets out two basic criteria for president: A candidate must be "a natural born citizen" and at least 35 years old.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that states can't add to the constitutional requirements for federal office. But the Supreme Court also has held that states can regulate ballots to keep them from being unwieldy. In California, the secretary of state qualifies anyone who is "a generally-recognized candidate."

Adam Winkler, a UCLA constitutional law professor, says the 1995 court ruling "would likely mean that California cannot add additional qualifications" for a presidential candidacy.

Jessica Levinson, a Loyola Law School professor who heads the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, says: "If this is viewed as a new qualification, then it's unconstitutional. If it's viewed as a procedural rule, it is constitutional. There are good arguments on both sides."

Realistically, it's a slap at Trump — and in nonlegal terms, a gratuitous new qualification especially concocted for him. Brown should veto the bill — if for no other reason than he didn't release his taxes either when running for governor in 2010 and 2014.

KPCC

They didn't know the LA River was full of E.coli but public officials did

By Emily Guerin

Earlier this month, about 150 people descended on an increasingly popular stretch of the Los Angeles River to paddle, splash and frolic in an annual boat race. But just days before, water quality tests taken upstream indicated the presence of harmful feces-borne bacteria 100 times the federal safety limit for swimming and recreation.

According to emails obtained by KPCC, at least five government agencies knew about the E. coli-tainted water in the days before the fourth annual L.A. River Boat Race on Sept. 9, but they did little to notify the general public or close the river to recreation.

The Los Angeles River is at a pivotal moment in its history. For most of the past century, it was exclusively a concrete-lined flood control channel. But since 2010 — when federal officials opened two short sections to boating — it's increasingly become a popular recreation spot.

Advocates, including Mayor Eric Garcetti, see recreation as a crucial step toward building support around plans to spend more than \$1 billion to remove portions of its concrete channel and restore the river to a more natural state.

But as the recent E. coli spike proves, regulatory authority to protect public health has not kept pace with the enthusiasm to remake the L.A. River into a hallmark recreational draw for the region.

While government officials do close the river for safety risks related to flooding during heavy rains — something they did on Sept. 3 — there is no protocol in place to keep an increasing number of boaters safe from harmful bacteria that can cause illness.

"That's not our authority to tell kayaking companies to cancel your kayaking trips," said Mas Dojiri with the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, which monitors water quality along the L.A. River along with Heal the Bay and a second non-profit called the Council for Watershed Health.

Beginning Sept. 1, all three groups began to notice something alarming: E.coli levels were spiking to their highest levels in years.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, the E. coli standard for Elysian Valley and Sepulveda Basin, the portion of the L.A. River that is open to kayaking, is 235 per 100 milliliters. It's a level designed to protect the health of people who are swimming, fishing, wading or doing any other activity "where ingestion of water is reasonably possible."

On Sept. 5, some parts of the river that were open to kayaking were showing E. coli at more than 24,000 per 100 ml — a hundred times higher than the federal limit.

E. coli lives in the intestines of humans and animals, and when found in water, indicates the presence of sewage or feces. Swallowing or drinking water contaminated with high levels of E. coli has the potential to cause diarrhea, vomiting and fever.

L.A. Sanitation officials now believe illegal dumping of portable toilets into the river caused the levels to spike so high. Whatever the source, on Thursday, Sept. 7, the high E.coli levels triggered a flurry of messages on an email group informally called "L.A. River Bacterial Data distribution list." The group is made of up 27 government and nonprofit officials, including the US Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Burbank, the L.A. County Department of Public Health and the regional water quality control board.

At 1:50 p.m., Ken Franklin with L.A. Sanitation sent the group a brief email, warning them of the latest water quality readings.

"If any kayak tours are planned at the Sepulveda Basin in the next few days, I would recommend canceling them due to

the very high levels of bacteria and fish kill," Franklin wrote.

But there was a problem: Who had the authority to cancel kayaking on the river?

All afternoon, officials with the city, L.A. county and environmental groups emailed back and forth, pointing fingers at each other.

The portions of the L.A. River that are open to boating are actually designated REC-1; Dojiri corrected himself in a later email.

"Canceling kayaking is not within our authority," L.A. Sanitation's Dojiri wrote at 2:33 p.m. "I believe that Dept of Public Health would need to weigh in on this."

Half an hour later, Public Health emailed back. "We do not have the authority to close the river," wrote Nick Brakband, the department's chief environmental health specialist.

The Army Corps of Engineers, which built the flood control channel in the river, did not weigh in on Thursday, although it was included on the email chain. Spokesman Jay Field told KPCC it was not his agency's responsibility to look after water quality in the river, although the agency can close the river due to Army Corps operations.

"It would be the city or the county to make that call, not the Army Corps," he said. If the city is doing its own water quality monitoring, "they have some responsibility. Why else would they collect the data?"

The one agency that actually has the authority to close the river wasn't even on the email chain, and had no idea the bacteria levels in the river were so high.

The Mountains River Conservation Authority has a contract with Army Corps to oversee activities within the Los Angeles River Recreation Zone — made up of two stretches of the river within the Sepulveda Basin and Elysian Valley.

MRCA can direct all kayaking groups to cancel their trips when conditions are unsafe for boating, and it is their rangers who physically lock the gates to the river bike path.

MRCA closed the river twice this summer due to concerns about flooding. Because the concrete-lined L.A. River is designed to move water efficiently from the mountains to the ocean, it can rise rapidly without warning when it rains in the Santa Monica or San Gabriel Mountains.

In those cases, Walt Young, the deputy executive officer of the MRCA, received an alert from the National Weather Service informing him of a flash-flood risk for the San Fernando Valley. Five minutes later, he instructed his rangers to "advise our vendors to shut down operations and close the river ASAP based on the watch within the watershed."

But MRCA did not close the river on Sept. 7 due to concerns about high bacteria levels, because no one from L.A. Sanitation, the county Department of Public Health or the Army Corps asked them to.

"They could call us and tell us to close the river. Of course they could," said Dash Stolarz, the director of public affairs for the MRCA. "We're the enforcement arm."

She said MRCA does not employ scientists or do any of its own water monitoring.

"It's not our responsibility to be informed," she said. "It's the informers responsibility to inform us, and we take action."

But the information never arrived: MRCA was not on L.A. Sanitation's Sept. 7 email about bacteria levels in the L.A. River.

"No one contacted MRCA and said there was an issue with bacteria," she said, "I think that's really odd."

On Thursday afternoon, Katherine Pease, a scientist for Heal the Bay, announced to the group she was going back out the following day to do more water quality testing. Dojiri was interested in the data: the City of L.A. was planning a kayaking trip for one of its council districts that weekend, and needed to know soon whether or not to cancel.

The following morning at 6:42 a.m., Pease wrote to Dojiri and told him she was concerned about the way the city was handling the situation.

"I am concerned that the water quality information is not readily getting to the kayak outfitters and people who are in the water," she wrote.

Although the council district cancelled its trip, L.A. Sanitation did not publicize the water quality data before the weekend. Ultimately, it was Heal the Bay, not a government agency, that decided to tell kayaking groups about the E. coli problem, so that they could make an informed decision about whether to hold their weekend events or not.

On Friday, Sept. 8 at 11:41 am, Pease emailed all the kayaking outfitters on the L.A. River and informed them that L.A. Sanitation had "unofficially" recommended canceling trips in Sepulveda Basin. She also urged L.A. River Expeditions' to consider postponing its boat race through Elysian Valley that weekend, where samples Heal the Bay had taken Sept. 8, eventually showed levels of E. coli roughly two to four times higher than the federal safety standard. Pease also published a post on Heal the Bay's website.

And she added, "There is not a general protocol in place to make this recommendation 'official' with notification to the kayak outfitters and the general public."

Before Heal the Bay sent out its email on Friday, only one kayak outfitter had been informed directly by L.A. Sanitation about the recent E. coli levels in the river: Paddle the LA River, which runs trips out of the Sepulveda Basin, was the lone kayak outfitter on Ken Franklin's email on Thursday afternoon. Upon reading it, the group's marketing director, Kea Duggan, decided to suspend trips for the rest of the season.

"Knowing we have such a public-facing activity in a popular section of river, for us, ethically, it was important to take that direction and protect the public as much as we could, knowing the data that was available to us," she said.

Two other outfitters, L.A. River Expeditions and L.A. River Kayak Safari, did not hear directly from the government officials with access to the data. Instead, they received Heal the Bay's email on Friday, and decided against cancelling their weekend trips.

In a statement, L.A. River Expeditions said they held the race because MRCA hadn't called it off and had even provided rangers to keep coordinate the event.

"As nonprofit outfitters running trips on the river, we are required as a condition of our permit to give standard warnings about how to safely engage with river water," the statement read. "We are also required to provide standard information about the river's conditions."

participants can use when they exit the water. We did so again on Saturday, providing more than the required number of wash stations at the event."

Twenty students from the Dorris Place Elementary School in Elysian Valley were among the 150 who participated in the river race. While none of the kids got in the water, one teacher did. John Han, the school's principal, was surprised to find out that E.coli levels had been twice the regulatory limit the day before the event, according to Heal the Bay's data. He said race organizers did not mention the water quality issue at all.

"The safety of our children is always our priority," he said. "It's concerning if the water isn't healthy."

L.A. River Expedition's Anthea Raymond, who organized the race, said they told everyone who kayaked that day about how to "safely engage with river water."

But she also called out Heal the Bay's Katherine Pease for being vague in her Friday advisory to kayaking groups, "It reported no hard data," she wrote to KPCC in an email.

"The L.A. River doesn't need more reports that say that the river needs help," Raymond wrote. "We know that. What we need is for Heal the Bay to flex their funding muscles to proactively go after sources of pollution in the river instead of beating up on other environmental groups who have been at the forefront of making riverfront recreation a reality."

Many local environmental groups want to see the Los Angeles River transformed from a gritty, often polluted, storm channel into a beautiful greenway cutting through the heart of the city. But different groups have distinct, and at times conflicting, approaches on how to achieve that.

Heal the Bay believes that drawing attention to the water quality in the river will spur action to clean it up. The position comes from the group's experience cleaning up the beaches in Santa Monica Bay decades ago by grading the beaches, A through F, based on how polluted they were.

"There's this kind of pushback from recreation groups, the kayaking groups, that the water quality is fine," Pease said.

"We've seen this before with the beaches. 'If you point out how polluted they are, no one will come.'"

Indeed, kayaking companies and groups like Friends of the Los Angeles River say they are worried that if people think the L.A. River is unsafe to boat in, it will jeopardize their efforts to clean it up.

Stephen Mejia, the policy and advocacy manager with FOLAR, said when Heal the Bay put out its annual River Report Card last summer, he was inundated with calls from people asking if the L.A. River was coursing with raw sewage. The report found that E. coli levels in popular kayaking spots routinely violate regulatory standards.

So this time, Mejia decided to get ahead of the response. He asked L.A. Sanitation if he could use their data to show how often water quality samples have shown no exceedances for bacteria in the L.A. River.

In its own press release responding to Heal the Bay, FOLAR did not acknowledge the extremely high levels of bacteria in the river over the past two weeks. Instead, the organization wrote that, "despite fluctuations, the water quality in stretches of the River actually meet" federal standards.

Mejia said he was not attempting to downplay the significance of the recent pollution, but rather, to give the full context of the water quality in the river.

Indeed, water quality met federal standards for swimming 72 percent of the time in Elysian Valley and between half and two-thirds of the time in the Sepulveda Basin, according to data collected by the Council for Watershed Health.

But for at least one government official, the early September incident "really sent up a red flag."

"This really caught me off guard," said Mas Dojiri of L.A. Sanitation. For decades, he said, the primary aim of water quality monitoring has been to make sure the river is in compliance with Clean Water Act standards, "not public health."

When the river was a flood control channel that no one kayaked in, making sure E.coli levels stayed below the swimmable standard "wasn't quite on our radar screen" so monitoring, regulations and public outreach weren't developed accordingly, he said.

Dojiri hopes L.A. Sanitation will soon have a webpage where river users can find the most up-to-date water quality information, similar to what Heal the Bay and the Council for Watershed Health provide now. He also hopes the myriad partners that deal with the river — the L.A. County Department Public Health, the Army Corps, the kayaking groups, the environmental groups and MRCA — can develop a better system of notifying people when bacteria levels are high.

Indeed, the various partners have been trying to develop signage similar to what gets posted at beaches on days when bacteria levels are high. But it's not in place yet.

"I think we need a more coordinated protocol," he said. "There is room for improvement."

LA Times

Editorial: Entitled drivers are getting in the way of California's climate change efforts

For all the talk in California about leading the world in fighting global warming and resisting President Trump's climate-denial agenda, the state faces one powerful obstacle that limits its environmental activism: Touch their cars and Californians will revolt.

Any effort that limits, constrains or makes driving one's car more expensive or inconvenient — no matter how civic-minded the proposal — is immediately controversial in California, and often a nonstarter. Getting between Californians and their cars can spell the end of a political career. Just ask former Gov. Gray Davis, who was recalled in large part because of his decision to triple the state's vehicle license fee.

Two separate, unrelated efforts launched last week are a reminder of just how difficult it is to make public policy when it involves people's cars.

At the state level, a group calling itself "Reform California" announced that it was proposing an initiative to repeal the new gas tax and vehicle fee increases approved by Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature in April. The increases, including a 12-cent-per-gallon tax hike, were passed after years of negotiations over how to pay for an estimated \$73 billion in

deferred road repairs and infrastructure maintenance.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, a group of Westside residents has begun a campaign to recall City Councilman Mike Bonin to punish him for his support of so-called road diets that have eliminated traffic lanes. Bonin has been one of the council's most outspoken advocates for Vision Zero, the city's program to reduce traffic deaths by slowing traffic speeds. But two projects in his district — one in Playa del Rey and one in Mar Vista — have created a huge backlash, with residents complaining that the road diets have created clogged streets, slower traffic and longer commutes.

Of course, these are different campaigns launched by very different groups, and there are nuanced arguments on each side. But there is a common theme running through the criticism of the gas tax hike and the negative response to the road diets, and that's the belief that people should be able to drive their cars in the cheapest, fastest way possible.

That belief is a big problem for policymakers because it ultimately conflicts with key priorities in Los Angeles and California.

Brown and lawmakers have committed to dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions to help slow climate change. Transportation is the single largest source of greenhouse gases in California. To meet its targets, the state will have to persuade residents to drive less or drive pollution-free vehicles, such as electric cars.

The purpose of the gas tax hike was to raise money for infrastructure repairs, not to change drivers' behavior. But if the expense of keeping the state's roads and transportation systems well maintained means the cost of driving goes up and people are incentivized to use other modes of travel, well, that's good for California and good for the planet. If, on the other hand, the initiative to repeal the gas tax increase is successful, the price signal disappears and it's likely that fewer Californians will change their habits as a result. Then the state will have a harder time reducing greenhouse gases from vehicles.

Likewise in Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council have committed to help slow climate change and to make the city more sustainable. They've adopted policies, including the city's Mobility Plan 2035, that are designed to encourage people to drive less and take public transit, bike and walk more.

How do you get people to walk or bike more? Make them feel safer. That means slowing vehicle speeds, adding stop signs and crosswalks and building protected bike lanes. The city's plans also call for more bus-only lanes so people riding transit get the benefit of faster, traffic-free travel. Making travel easier and safer for non-drivers often means removing traffic lanes and, yes, slowing travel for cars.

But, as the Bonin recall campaign and the backlash to road diets in other neighborhoods demonstrate, drivers do not like this change. What does the political pressure on Bonin portend for other elected officials? Are they going to stick by their commitment to a more walkable, bikeable, sustainable city when motorists complain? And what about state leaders, who now face the possibility that the repeal of the gas tax hike could be on the ballot next year? One of their colleagues, Sen. Josh Newman (D-Fullerton), is facing a recall over his vote to pass the fuel tax package.

Will California lawmakers stick to their climate change goals when drivers threaten to revolt? We certainly hope so.

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Maria Penaloza <maria.penaloza@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

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LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the

picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a “community school,” a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

“In broad terms, this is about much more than pay,” Garcetti said. “This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future.”

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los

Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That's a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be

forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for

nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi

veingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more

man went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open,

despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for “the soul of public education.”

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to “feel the financial impact” of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: “We just can't manage 50 kids,” she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the “indefinite aspect” of this strike. “We have bills & mortgages like everyone else.”

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At a school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

“It's a difficult situation,” he said. “We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community.”

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket

line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot ✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAAstrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." [pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq](https://twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq)

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites, among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education."

<https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so

good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether its a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien

Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,'" said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measure passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating

back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an

industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used “straw donors” to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The “Committee for a Safer Los Angeles” was an entity called an “independent expenditure committee.” Garcetti’s adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was “barely aware” of it and had “nothing” to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of “behested payments,” unlimited contributions that are made at the “behest” of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has “behested” over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the “Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles,” and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the “Los Angeles Parks Foundation” at Garcetti’s request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price “behested” over \$245,000 for the “Coalition for Responsible Community Development,” which has a stated mission to “improve local planning.”

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he’d have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city

has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, “because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants.”

“It’s frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on,” said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. “The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments,” Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I’m not actually sure that’s true. Democrats might not have an “inevitable” frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our “five corners” series on the Democratic field, you’re going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The “five corners” refers to what we claim are the the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It’s not that some of them couldn’t hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it’s that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I’m instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren’t well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be

pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and

Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further

strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do

everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch #WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothepolls.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:56 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses](#)

[LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers](#)

LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

LA DAILY NEWS: Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

LAIST: LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

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LA TIMES: Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

FIVE THIRTY EIGHT: How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a “community school,” a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

“In broad terms, this is about much more than pay,” Garcetti said. “This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future.”

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from “Jane the Virgin,” Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

“The strike has strong support across the board,” said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. “These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life.”

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

“We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home,” Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing \$10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost \$25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That’s a net loss of \$15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters

are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times

In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers

By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning

California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times

Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike

By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along

with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposal unveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back.

Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire —

more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: [The Hill](#), [Daily Mail](#)

LA Daily News

LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost \$25 million in attendance, but saved \$10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher retention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about \$25 million, and saved \$10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates \$68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the “painful truth” is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district’s precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union’s demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for “the soul of public education.”

Kamala Harris ✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. <https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464> ...

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

“We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators,” said Caputo-Pearl. “Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing ... We are doing this for your rights right now.”

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That’s when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to \$10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner’s most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-

year contract, while UTLA — skeptical of claims that the district's \$1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reiterated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At a school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that Los Angeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says \$15 million was lost by the district yesterday: \$25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved \$10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLANow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: [KNX 1070](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion

Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites, among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education."

<https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa>

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties.

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment, however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free

service to LA Unified School District students between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles, **Eric Garcetti**. In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: [Telemundo](#)

Reuters

Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks

By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinstate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three

LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked on the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost \$130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost \$800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages \$75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday

By: Daniela Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly \$9 billion and L.A. Unified has \$1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which included actions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with \$1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether it's a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times

With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations

By: Dave Zanniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodman, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to be talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it “easier for us to finally push this through.”

The resurrection of Ryu’s proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

“The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members,” she said. “I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there’s no accounting for any of it.”

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system “basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied,” Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu’s plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu’s proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

“The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, ‘You don’t get to participate in the political process by making contributions,’ ” said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances,

rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News

Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury

Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist

LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers

By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain

developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco

'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe

By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave \$60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over \$41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for \$1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave \$3 million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over \$245,000 for the "Coalition for

Responsible Community Development, which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times

Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council

By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than \$1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly \$2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than \$1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people

currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really “cost-neutral” as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential report from then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, “because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants.”

“It’s frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on,” said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the

mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments,” Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight

How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition

By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.¹

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters²; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates —

being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid. What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in “The West Wing,” a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as “Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian” ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a “Draft Abrams” movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind of experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly

Unity) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries³ could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a

candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press

Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and \$25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-

story buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,000 buildings with non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist

Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

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**Eric
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Maria Penaloza <maria.penaloza@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 6:55 AM

To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti

UNIVISION: Alcalde de Los Ángeles promociona la ciudad para atraer el turismo mexicano
(VIDEO ONLY)

POLITICO: 'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight

LA TIMES: Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

LA TIMES: Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

MERCURY NEWS: Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

SFV BUSINESS JOURNAL: VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport

JEWISH JOURNAL: Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism

Politico

'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight

By: Jeremy B. White

OAKLAND — The next big political fight over data privacy may center on an unlikely piece of technology: The scooters currently flying around streets and scattered on sidewalks in cities across the country.

And as always, it's brewing first in California, the state that last year enacted a landmark consumer privacy law that's roiling Silicon Valley and Washington policymakers.

In Los Angeles, a dispute over how the city manages data embedded in Uber-operated scooters has emerged as a leading-edge privacy issue, foreshadowing a debate over the government's role in managing sensitive data in a new era of connected transit.

City officials want granular location information on thousands of dockless scooters that are proliferating in the sprawling southern California metropolis. They say it's critical to know what's happening in their streets and ensure people are being served equitably.

But Uber's dockless vehicle company, JUMP, is pushing back, arguing that the scale of data Los Angeles wants poses a menace to personal privacy.

In a letter to Los Angeles Department of Transportation manager Seleta Reynolds, the company warned of "an unprecedented level of surveillance, oversight, and control that

LADOT would wield over private companies and individual citizens. (Keynote responses that those concerns were "uninformed, and therefore, falsely characterize" the situation.)

The clash opens another chapter in a long-running conflict between cities and mobility companies, like Uber, that previously sought to aggressively expand before getting official approval. Uber and Lyft have for years sparred with cities over access to what the companies consider valuable proprietary information.

Skeptics of Uber's motives note that companies already collect huge amounts of personal data, and not always with positive results: Uber reached a \$148 million settlement with California earlier this year over a massive breach of consumer information.

But Uber's letter hits on a larger concern about government's expanding role in tracking how people move around. Privacy advocates say that location data is especially sensitive given that it can reveal a person's movements and private transactions — all the more so given that dockless vehicles can take a person directly to or from their home or business.

"I think it's the big privacy issue of the next few years," said Joseph Jerome, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology's data and privacy project. "This sort of combination of private data in public hands is going to be a bigger and bigger issue, and when it's geolocation there are some particular questions."

Former Los Angeles Assemblyman Mike Gatto, who oversaw a nascent committee devoted to privacy, recounted Department of Motor Vehicles officials talking about persistent hacking attempts and police officers improperly accessing state databases.

Gatto warned that when government agencies create public databases, "law enforcement has the ability to access it, and they will."

A LADOT spokesperson said the agency would share data with the Los Angeles Police Department only when presented with a warrant; the spokesperson did not answer questions about whether information can be revealed in a lawsuit or what restrictions LA imposes on sharing between city agencies.

The debate comes as cities contend with an explosion of scooters: pending applications would put roughly 40,000 more on LA's roads, according to LADOT chief sustainability officer Marcel Porras.

"We were looking to respond quickly to a new mobility that kind of landed on our streets without permission," he said.

Porras said it's critical for the city to have a clear view of a rapidly growing means of transit so they can stay on top of the swiftly changing situation on the ground and see if scooters end up "in the LA River."

City officials also want that data so they can ensure companies are abiding by promises to make the technology available to lower-income residents "in areas of the city where these types of private sector investments may not normally go to first," Porras said.

"We're telling companies that if they want to expand their fleet, you have to put more of

these units in disadvantaged communities," Porras said.

Porras said city officials rigorously examined privacy implications and ultimately decided to classify the location information as confidential, meaning it's not subject to public records requests. He noted that the information LA is collecting does not include personal identifiers.

"We are collecting vehicle information, not information on riders," he said.

Los Angeles is widely seen as ahead of the curve on data practices. A representative for **Mayor Eric Garcetti** stressed that record and said the city strives to keep residents informed "as new technologies emerge."

"Scooter location is tracked in a transparent way that protects user privacy, and the city has a strong track record of improving systems through data while being sensitive to privacy concerns," spokeswoman Anna Bahr said in a release.

Such assurances, however, have met with skepticism from people who have observed the perils of how government agencies manage data.

"The data's only as good as its weakest link," Gatto said. "I do believe this is one of those issues that is at the tipping point," he added, noting "this gut feeling we all have which is 'this is creepy — why is government tracking every single move and storing the data?'"

The debate is unfurling as the state wrestles over the scope of the California Consumer Privacy Act, which emerged last year amid growing concerns about Big Tech's intrusiveness.

While Los Angeles says the law does not apply to data schema managed by government, the parallel developments demonstrate how data privacy is becoming a paramount consideration for policymakers — particularly the large and growing pool of information on where people are going in a world of increasingly sophisticated and connected transit.

"If you know where people work and pray and play you know a whole lot about them," Jerome said. "Our concern is [Los Angeles] is asking for a whole lot of data — more frequent and rigorous real-time data than companies collect and provide at the moment."

The issue isn't restricted to Los Angeles. In her capacity as an official in the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Reynolds has been sharing LA's data collection method as a possible model for other cities — an effort that transit experts said was gaining traction far beyond California.

She was among the NACTO officials last year touting a project called Shared Streets that lets private companies and public agencies share transit data. A NACTO representative declined to speak on the record, but the Shared Streets website has a section devoted to assuring that "incredibly sensitive" data would be anonymized.

Last December, a collection of chief data officers of American cities signed an open letter heralding the launch of dockless vehicles and arguing that cities getting their raw data was "essential for internal urban planning." They argued for "block-level aggregation" that would safeguard privacy and against sharing individual routes.

Hanging over the scooter debate is an intensifying race by major tech and auto companies to deploy autonomous vehicles at scale. Driverless cars traveled more than two million miles on California's public roads last year, according to the DMV, a fourfold increase from the prior year.

Those vehicles generate enormous amounts of data. As California and the federal government work to shape the rules that should govern their use, transportation experts said LA's foray into managing transportation data could offer a glimpse of what's to come.

"Scooters are sort of a test case for how transit agencies are going to manage data as you deploy more technology," Jerome said.

In LA, a city that's long been emblematic of personal car culture, city officials are bracing for seismic changes brought on by the confluence of shared ridership, autonomous vehicle technology and big data. A LADOT plan repeatedly underscores how the city will need to assert its authority.

"Control is a fundamental aspect of today's transportation network and will become even more critical in the future," the plan says, which will mean launching a "technology platform that enables our Department to actively manage the transportation network in ways we previously have not."

The report describes the implications in strikingly evocative terms, predicting that the "technical, political, and structural aspects of this change are momentous, but so is the human emotional one."

The word "privacy" does not appear in the document.

LA Times

Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum

By: Howard Blume

Last year, the power of the local teachers union seemed to be on the wane while charter schools' prospects were rising. Los Angeles Board of Education members backed by charter supporters were in control, and they'd pushed through a new superintendent whose background had nothing to do with education.

On Tuesday, voters showed how quickly things can change.

Jackie Goldberg, the union-backed candidate, easily outpaced nine others on the ballot in a special election that could shift the balance on the school board — thanks in large part to public support cultivated during a six-day teachers' strike in January.

The 74-year-old veteran public official didn't quite get the majority needed to win the District 5 seat outright, but she claimed 48% of the vote, making her the strong favorite in a May 14 runoff against a second-place finisher who trailed her by 35 percentage points.

Goldberg, who served on the board for two terms until 1991, proclaimed herself part of a

larger movement to bring more resources to education — and also to rein in charter schools.

"This is the beginning and not the end of putting together all those people who came together around the teachers' strike — not just here but in Oakland and the folks in Madera and the folks in Fresno that are all trying to make these things happen," Goldberg said. "People moved to California when I was young for our schools. And since then we have starved them, and we cannot continue starving them. This movement is about that."

It's not yet clear who Goldberg will face in the runoff, but it will either be Graciela Ortiz or Heather Repenning, who at last count were separated by 53 votes. Neither would be a clear-cut option for charter supporters. The candidate with the strongest pro-charter position, Allison Bajracharya, finished fifth.

Ortiz is a school counselor and a member of the Huntington Park City Council. Repenning is a former public works commissioner and longtime senior aide to L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**. Their order of finish will be settled by mail-in and provisional ballots. The vote count can continue as late as March 19.

A timely candidate

Goldberg's success was partly due to her own brand: She served on the school board, on the L.A. City Council and in the state Legislature; she's well-known and well-regarded by many.

But her success also was built on teacher activism, including last year's strikes in other states and this year's walkouts in Los Angeles and Oakland. Union leaders in L.A. followed up their January strike by immediately launching a campaign that spent about \$660,000 on Goldberg's behalf. She also raised about \$200,000 for her own campaign — and she noted Tuesday night that she'd benefited from 1,300 small contributions and 800 volunteers.

Her activism goes way back to the UC Berkeley free speech movement of the mid-1960s — an era, she noted, in which students paid no tuition for their higher education. The state, she said, needs to find its way back to a deeper investment in its children.

Charter schools, too, would benefit from increased education funding, but charter advocates strongly — although quietly — opposed Goldberg. They worry about her calls for limiting the number of new charters and imposing more stringent regulations on them. (Both would require changes to state law.)

Goldberg aligns with those who say that privately operated charters — which compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that goes with them — are undermining public education. Charter backers counter that their schools have provided healthy competition and high-quality choices for families. About 1 in 5 local public school students now attend a charter — and wealthy pro-charter donors want further charter expansion.

Anti-charter themes were a regular refrain of striking teachers, and they seemed to strike a chord with people who may not previously have been familiar with the arguments.

A survey of L.A. Unified School District residents during and just after the strike found that about 3 in 4 said the focus should be on improving existing public schools rather than on

alternatives such as charter schools, said Bhanne Gilbert, associate director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

Although the charter lobby remains powerful, it also suffered a setback at the state level last year, when it ran campaigns on behalf of candidates who lost the races for governor and the state superintendent of public instruction. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom — who has signaled his openness to more regulation of charter school — signed legislation that would compel charters to follow laws on public records and public meetings.

Money matters

Tuesday's outcome also marked a new direction in another way. In several previous elections, pro-charter funders outspent everyone — to good effect. In 2017, candidates they backed claimed their first-ever L.A. school board majority. And a charter school founder, Ref Rodriguez, became president of the board.

Rodriguez represented District 5 — the region on Tuesday's ballot, which takes in neighborhoods north of downtown and then cuts a narrow path east of downtown to the cities of southeast L.A. County. He was supposed to serve through 2020.

Two months after Rodriguez became board president, however, prosecutors charged him with political money laundering. He stepped down as president but remained on the board for nearly a year, just long enough to cast a crucial vote for hiring businessman Austin Beutner as superintendent.

Goldberg said she would have voted to hire an educator rather than Beutner, but she also said she would try to work with the superintendent.

Rodriguez resigned in July after pleading guilty to one felony and three misdemeanors. His crimes, his delay in leaving office and his willingness to cast important swing votes during that time did not sit well with some parents and voters.

For this week's primary, charter backers were never able to coalesce around an opponent to Goldberg. Bajracharya, an executive at a charter organization, had substantial support from charter allies but not the overwhelming sums provided by mega-donors in recent elections.

Four candidates raised enough money to get their message out: Goldberg, Bajracharya, Ortiz and Repenning. And each also had donors who funded independent campaigns on their behalf. The teachers union's spending on Goldberg was a relative bargain compared to what it spent in recent races — often in a losing cause.

But the biggest spender in the primary was Local 99 of Services Employees International Union, which represents most nonteaching district employees. It put nearly \$1 million into a campaign to elect Repenning, who also had the endorsement of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Part of Local 99's money paid for a misleading campaign against Goldberg, describing her as a career politician who is "always looking out for #1" and who favored prisons over schools, slashed education spending and presided over a failing school system.

Even if their campaign helped force a runoff, Repenning finished so far back that Local 99

now must ponder how much it wants to continue fighting Goldberg, with whom the union previously has gotten along.

Many observers assumed that the pro-charter funders — organized under the group California Charter Schools Assn. Advocates — were simply holding their fire till the runoff. Goldberg's strong showing could affect that calculus.

A spokesman for CCSA Advocates declined to comment Wednesday.

Also covered by: [LA Magazine](#), [LA Daily News](#), [Eastsider LA](#)

LA Times

Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

To the editor: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to explore congestion pricing. This is a bad idea.

We cannot tax our way out of traffic any more than we can reduce the number of residents in and around Los Angeles, nor can most people change where they live or where they must travel to work.

Encouraging housing development along the various Metro routes is an option, but ultimately, we will never be able to overcome the challenges presented by the spread-out geography of greater Los Angeles.

If Los Angeles and other nearby cities really want to see traffic move more quickly, they should put significantly more effort and money into repairing our streets, which are in a shameful and dare I say dangerous state of disrepair.

Joe Grauman, Los Angeles

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To the editor: A single word appearing in the article explains everything. The word is "choice," and it implies that working people will make an informed decision about whether or not to pay an additional tax to get to work.

The only real choice would be to pay the tax or pay one's rent. The effect of congestion pricing will be to remove working poor people from the highway so the wealthy can relax.

If the Red Line subway went from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and all other rail lines were complete, there might be a bit of fairness to this proposal. But in this form, it is merely insulting.

Jon Hartmann, Los Angeles

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To the editor: Metro wants to study a proposal to tax motorists and ride-share operators to the tune of \$580 million over a decade. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is quoted as saying, "This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue."

If that is true, then the Metro board members should read the L.A. Times' March 4 op-ed article, "We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence." They would learn the city of Hangzhou used artificial intelligence to decrease road congestion.

It's a shame there isn't this kind of intelligence, artificial or otherwise, at Metro.

Tom Keiser, Pasadena

Mercury News

Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president

By: Casey Tolan

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo backed Sen. Kamala Harris for president Thursday, lending his support to a fellow former Bay Area prosecutor as her campaign rolled out endorsements from a slate of California mayors.

"Senator Harris stands head and shoulders above the current field in the ability to articulate a vision that can move America forward and a willingness to say what needs to be said," Liccardo told the Bay Area News Group in an interview. "She's been a great champion for California and for our values."

In Harris' latest move to consolidate home state support, she also announced endorsements from Mayors London Breed of San Francisco, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Robert Garcia of Long Beach and Aja Brown of Compton.

Harris' campaigns for office "paved the way for me and many women who have sought elected office in this state," Breed said in a statement. "She is acutely aware of the work that needs to be done on behalf of this nation and is prepared to lead and lift up hard-working men and women across this nation."

The former state attorney general and San Francisco district attorney, Harris has already won the backing of elected officials up and down the California ballot, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, five members of Congress and a host of other state officers and legislators. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf also endorsed Harris at her campaign kick-off rally earlier this year.

The Golden State is expected to play an unusually important role this year due to its early spot on the calendar and its major delegate haul. Californians will go to the polls on March 3, just after the four traditional early states and on the same day as a more than a half-dozen other states including Texas, North Carolina and Virginia.

As of Thursday, Harris has the support of all the Democratic leaders of California's nine biggest cities except for **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, who publicly mused about a presidential bid before deciding not to run in January. He hasn't made a choice in the race.

The latest endorsements for Harris aren't exactly a surprise. Breed, who called the senator her "Bay Area sister," hosted a friendly San Francisco event for Harris' book tour earlier this year and attended her Oakland rally.

Liccardo, a former Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, said he was impressed by Harris' work with him and other mayors on under-the-radar issues like improving emergency warning systems. Harris will be the best candidate to balance progressive policies with appeals to moderate voters, he argued: "If this is just a contest to see who can race faster to the left, the Democratic Party will be headed for defeat in 2020."

Harris might not be the only Californian in the race for the White House: East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell is also considering a run, and spent this past weekend meeting activists across northeast Iowa, his 17th trip to the state since the beginning of 2017.

San Fernando Valley Business Journal
VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport
By: Mark Madler

The Aviation Committee of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association received an update Wednesday on efforts to allow public events in aircraft hangars at Van Nuys Airport.

Max Reyes, an economic policy manager in **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office, told the committee that the mayor's office has been working with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles World Airports, representatives from Councilwoman Nury Martinez's office and the Van Nuys Airport Association on the issue.

"We feel there has been progress," said Flora Margheritis, general manager of Van Nuys Airport.

Right now, a point of contention is about whether the large hangar doors will be considered emergency exits, Reyes said.

The issue of public events at the San Fernando Valley airfield came to the attention of airport tenants and VICA in December at a meeting of the airport association. Tenants were told of a city of Los Angeles administrative ruling that prohibits public events in hangars at Van Nuys Airport and warehouses across the city and that the Building and Safety Department would begin to enforce it.

A report is expected in the next week or two from the department and a proposed ordinance sponsored by Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee on March 19, Reyes said.

The proposed ordinance, introduced in December, instructs the L.A. Fire Department and Building and Safety Department to recommend a system to permit events at hangars.

"There is a pathway there and we are working on that," said Curt Castagna, who serves as president of the Van Nuys Airport Association

VICA has become involved with the issue as its executive committee in December passed a resolution in opposition to the event ban and calling for deferring implementation of the ban at Van Nuys and Los Angeles International airports for 180 days; creating standards for review and a permitting process; and making a clear distinction between hangars and warehouses.

Jewish Journal

Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism

By: Ryan Torok and Aaron Bandler

A mural in downtown Los Angeles depicting the Grim Reaper wrapped inside an American flag emblazoned with Jewish stars, gripping a baby, cradling a missile and surrounded by snakes, has been deemed anti-Semitic by several civic leaders and organizations, including Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office.

"This mural is a shameful act of anti-Semitism," Alex Comisar, a spokesman for Garcetti, said in a statement. "Imagery like this should have no place in our city."

The image, on the exterior wall of The Vortex, a performance and event space in an industrial downtown neighborhood, was first painted in 2011 by local artist Vyal Reyes as part of an art show titled, "LA vs. WAR." In 2018, Reyes said on his Instagram page that the work was inspired by a trip he took "to Palestine some years back."

However, the controversy didn't erupt until Feb. 25, when Zhenya Rozinskiy of boutique consulting firm Mirigos shared a photograph of the mural on his Facebook page and it went viral.

Among those condemning the mural was Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party. The group posted a picture of the mural on its Facebook page and tagged the Vortex, stating: "Hey The Vortex, Is this a real thing on your building? If yes, why? It's wildly anti-Semitic. If not, you should probably clear up the confusion. Signed, Some confused and concerned community members."

But in an email to the Journal, Reyes said he isn't anti-Semitic and that he intended the mural to be "critical of the U.S. and its increasing focus on war."

"That particular neighborhood that the mural was painted in was in worse shape at the time and homeless people lived all around there," Reyes said. "It seemed to me at the time that the U.S. was more into funding war than helping its homeless. Even at that time, the U.S. was funding massive amounts of money to Israel, as they still are. That's not anti-Semitic; that's just a fact."

Jeff Norman, a representative of the Vortex, also defended Reyes. "The Vortex stands for free expression," Norman said in an email to the Journal. "The artist whose mural includes the Star of David (created for the LA vs. WAR show to acknowledge 9/11 about 5-6 years ago) did not intend to express an anti-Semitic message. We believe his intent deserves considerable weight. We invite those who feel otherwise to paint another mural next to it. We are also open to hosting a public discussion about this controversy at The Vortex."

But on the night of Feb. 25 or the morning of Feb. 26, the words "No place for hate" were painted over the mural. While it's unclear who was responsible for defacing the mural, the artists' rights organization Artists 4 Israel sent a photograph of the defaced mural to their email list subscribers on Feb. 26.

When asked if his group was responsible for painting over the mural, Artists 4 Israel CEO

Craig Bershowitz told the Journal that he did not have any comment, although he conceded that he was troubled by the mural's imagery.

As of press time, The Vortex had not made any effort to repair the mural or to notify the police about the defacement, Norman said.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League has called for the mural's removal.

"For a venue that purports to welcome the community, The Vortex should join us in condemning hateful imagery that invokes anti-Semitic canards conflating Jews with death, snakes, bombs and killing babies," the organization said in a statement.

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Cate Hurley | Communications
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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 7:39 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?](#)

LA Daily News

Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration. Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised \$2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving \$1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.

--



Cate Hurley | Executive Assistant to the Mayor
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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 10:55 AM

To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

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Riki Esquer
Executive Assistant



Mayor's Office of City Services
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Maria Penaloza <maria.penaloza@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

2 messages

Jordan Burns <jordan.burns@lacity.org>
To: Jordan Burns <jordan.burns@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Wed, May 29, 2019 at 7:08 AM

Mayor Eric Garcetti

[NEW YORK TIMES: A Ballot Measure Could Help Los Angeles Schools, but Will Voters Support It?](#)

[LA TIMES: Chinese tourism to U.S. drops for first time in 15 years](#)

[LA TIMES: Black market cannabis shops thrive in L.A. even as city cracks down](#)

[STREETSBLOG LA: This Week In Livable Streets](#)

[LA SCHOOL REPORT: \\$500M annual parcel tax unlikely to pass if low voter turnout trend persists, poll shows](#)

[FOX AND HOUNDS DAILY: Mayoral Mismatch](#)

[YO! VENICE: MTA Bridge Housing Operator Chosen, Injunction Denied](#)

[HR TECHNOLOGIST: The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation Partners with Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology to pilot WorkforceReady](#)

[LIBERATION NEWS: The struggle is in the streets: LA's ruling class attacks the houseless](#)

[THE BULWARK: The Democratic Debates Are Going To Be a Clownshow](#)

[GRIT DAILY: THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM LA: FASHION](#)

New York Times

A Ballot Measure Could Help Los Angeles Schools, but Will Voters Support It?

By Jill Cowan

Good morning.

(Here's the sign-up, if you don't already get California Today by email.)

Today, we have an update on the Los Angeles teachers' strike, part of a series of protests by educators that have rippled across the state this year. The dispatch comes from my colleague, Jennifer Medina:

When L.A. teachers went on strike earlier this year, public opinion seemed to swing in their favor. Drivers honked enthusiastically when they passed by schools crowded with protests, presidential candidates backed the teachers' demands, and celebrities took it as an opportunity to decry longstanding underfunding of California public schools.

The strike ended with a deal brokered by **Mayor Eric Garcetti** to cap class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors at schools throughout the district.

Now comes the test: Are taxpayers willing to fork over more money for the Los Angeles

United School District with a parcel tax?

The agreement between the teachers' union and school district officials relied on finding an additional \$403 million to pay for the plan. Despite California's liberal reputation, the state lags far behind other states in education spending. And while school officials continue to press Sacramento to increase funding, several school districts have approved local tax increases to pay for public schools.

Getting voters to the polls can be difficult in the best of circumstances. It may prove herculean next Tuesday, when Measure EE — as the 16-cents-per-square-foot parcel tax is officially called — is the only issue on the ballot. The measure would generate \$6 billion for Los Angeles schools in the next 12 years.

In addition to the teachers' union and the mayor, the ballot measure has attracted support from presidential candidates. But the Chamber of Commerce and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association have aggressively campaigned against it, saying the school system needs to manage existing funding better.

Conventional wisdom suggests that the higher the turnout, the more likely Measure EE will win. Alex Caputo-Pearl, the president of United Teachers Los Angeles, said the union had been "knocking doors every day" to get homeowners' support.

If Measure EE fails, it is unlikely that the district can stick with the promises made amid the strike deal.

"In the short term if it doesn't pass we're looking at the status quo," said Yuseff Robb, a spokesman for the Yes on EE campaign. "Shortly thereafter it will give way to cuts. When you have 46 kids in a classroom how much further can you go?"

Here's what else we're following

(We often link to sites that limit access for nonsubscribers. We appreciate your reading Times coverage, but we also encourage you to support local news if you can.)

Senator Kamala Harris at an event in Los Angeles. CreditMike Blake/Reuters

- Amid a wave of states passing sharp abortion restrictions, Senator Kamala Harris proposed requiring states and local governments that have histories of unconstitutionally restricting abortion rights to get federal approval before they can enact such laws. It's similar to a provision in the Voting Rights Act. [The New York Times]
- The California Democratic Party, racked by scandal and divided by infighting, is facing three lawsuits. And yet, as the party prepares for its annual convention in San Francisco, observers say it's doing just fine. [CALmatters]
- West Hollywood Prep, the school where proctors were suspected of giving test answers to kids of parents implicated in the college admissions scandal, was also giving diplomas to nonstudents for a fee.[The Los Angeles Times]
- Police executed seven search warrants in their investigation into how a freelance journalist

get a leaked police report about the February death of Ben Araceli, San Francisco's longtime public defender. The revelation suggests the probe has been wider than previously known. [The San Francisco Chronicle]

- Yet another metric of the housing crisis: Home prices in Southern California are rising four times faster than wages. [Los Angeles Daily News]
- Google's temps and contractors outnumber the company's full-time work force. The company's increasing reliance on those workers has employees wondering if management is undermining its vaunted culture. [The New York Times]

Images making waves

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez responded to a video that seemed to compare her to dictators.

CreditSeth Wenig/Associated Press

- A Memorial Day tribute video shown at a Fresno Grizzlies baseball game seemed to compare Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with Kim Jong-un and Fidel Castro. Team officials said the video was shown by mistake. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez responded. [The Fresno Bee]
- A San Diego State graduate honored her parents by posing for a moving photo with them in the field where they work. "Their sacrifice to come to this country to give us a better future was well worth it," she said. [CNN]
- Ali Wong and Randall Park talk about the subtle subversion of making a "When Harry Met Sally" or a "Boomerang" about a pair of normal Asian-Americans. [The New York Times]
- Forget the Met Gala. Here are some of the best, campiest looks from RuPaul's DragCon, which took over the Los Angeles Convention Center last weekend. [Vogue]

The Times in California

- If you couldn't make it to the event, watch Nahanatchka Khan, who directed the film "Always Be My Maybe," talk with Sopan Deb. [Times Events]

And Finally ...

Claudette Zepeda-Wilkins finishes a dish of vegetable enmoladas at El Jardín, one of the Bib Gourmand restaurants.CreditJohn Francis Peters for The New York Times

You may recall that when the Michelin Guide announced it was expanding to cover restaurants statewide it was kind of a big deal — the fact that the state's tourism board paid for that expansion notwithstanding.

In previous years, Michelin inspectors had hit only San Francisco.

That California guide, which will award restaurants across the state those coveted stars, is

set to be released early next month.

On Tuesday, though, presumably to tide over diners hungry to try Michelin-anointed eats, the organization released its list of 151 Bib Gourmand restaurants from Sacramento to San Diego, where you can get meals of at least two courses, plus a glass of wine or a dessert, for \$40 or less.

In other words, it's a neat resource if your budget doesn't permit you to drop \$300 for dinner with any regularity.

The only other catch is that if you're on the Bib Gourmand list, you can't also be starred. Which means speculation has begun.

LA Times

Chinese tourism to U.S. drops for first time in 15 years

By Associated Press

After more than a decade of rapid growth, Chinese travel to the U.S. is falling. And that has cities, malls and other tourist spots scrambling to reverse the trend.

Travel from China to the U.S. fell 5.7% in 2018 to 2.9 million visitors, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, which collects data from U.S. Customs forms. It was the first time since 2003 that Chinese travel to the U.S. slipped from the prior year.

Friction between the U.S. and China is one reason for the slowdown. The Trump administration first imposed tariffs on Chinese solar panels and washing machines in January 2018, and the trade war has escalated from there. The U.S. now has a 25% tariff on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, while China has retaliated with tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. imports.

Last summer, China issued a travel warning for the U.S., telling its citizens to beware of shootings, robberies and high costs for medical care. The U.S. shot back with its own warning about travel to China.

Wang Haixia, who works at an international trade company in Beijing, traveled to the U.S. in May for her sister's graduation. She and her family planned to spend 10 days in Illinois and New York.

Wang says she might have stayed longer but doesn't want to contribute to the U.S. economy amid the trade war.

"I cannot cancel this trip because I promised my sister I would go to her commencement," she said. "My relatives will contribute more than 100,000 yuan to America just staying for 10 days, and that's enough."

Los Angeles, however, is bucking the national trend.

Visitors from China set an all-time high of 1.2 million in 2018, a 6.9% increase from the previous year, making Los Angeles County the top-ranked U.S. city for Chinese travelers.

After a slight decline in 2017, the number of visitors from Mexico also reached a record, with 1.8 million guests, a 4% increase, according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. The number of visitors from Canada, Britain, Japan, Scandinavia and India also recorded substantial increases in 2018.

In response to President Trump's anti-immigration statements and efforts to ban travel from several predominantly Muslim countries, **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti** and other tourism officials created a campaign to send a message of welcome to tourists, especially from Mexico and largely Muslim countries.

The campaign featured a music video that appeared on social media sites in Canada, China, Mexico, Britain and Australia. In all, 7.5 million international travelers and 42.5 million domestic travelers came to Los Angeles last year.

However, economic uncertainty in China has travelers at the lower end of the market vacationing closer to home, says Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the Chinese Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which found that 56% of travelers leaving China in the last three months of 2018 went to Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan compared with 50% in 2017. Those who do travel farther are seeking out more exotic destinations like Croatia, Morocco and Nepal.

Chinese travel to the U.S. had already been moderating from its breakneck pace earlier this decade. In 2000, 249,000 Chinese visited the U.S. That tripled to 802,000 by 2010, then tripled again by 2015, in part because of higher incomes, better long-haul flight connections and an easing of visa restrictions, according to McKinsey, the consulting firm.

The U.S. welcomed more than 3 million Chinese visitors in 2016 and 2017. But year-over-year growth edged up just 4% in 2017, the slowest pace in more than a decade.

Most industry-watchers agree that any downturn is temporary, because China's middle class will only continue to expand. The U.S. government forecasts Chinese tourism will grow 2% this year to 3.3 million visitors, and will reach 4.1 million visitors in 2023.

"Even if the Chinese economy cools, it's still going to continue to be a very good source of growth for the travel industry," said David Huether, senior vice president of research for the U.S. Travel Assn.

In general, international travel to the U.S. has been declining. Overall data for 2018 haven't been released yet, but international travel fell 2% in 2016 and was flat in 2017.

Tourists from China pose for photographs at Rockefeller Center in New York on Nov. 12, 2017. (Kathy Willens / Associated Press)

But because China commands some of the highest tourism traffic to the U.S., any falloff will be felt by destinations that have come to rely on Chinese spending power. In 2017, the country had the fifth highest number of U.S.-bound tourists, behind Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. Ten years earlier, China wasn't even on the top 10 list, falling behind countries like Germany, France, South Korea and Australia, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office.

China didn't crack the top 10 list until 2011 and has been climbing ever since. Spending by Chinese visitors — which doesn't include students — ballooned more than 600% between 2008 and 2016, to nearly \$18.9 billion. In 2017, that fell by 1% to \$18.8 billion, or about 12% of overall tourism spending.

To hold onto those dollars, experts say the tourism industry must do more to keep up with Chinese travelers and their changing needs.

Larry Yu, a professor of hospitality management at George Washington University, notes that Chinese tourists — particularly younger ones — are increasingly planning trips using social media apps like WeChat and are less likely to book through big tour groups. They have also rapidly adopted smartphone-based payment systems.

Destinations should invest in those technologies now if they want to continue attracting Chinese tourists, says David Becker, former CEO of Attract China, a New York-based travel consultancy.

"A lot of companies looked at the Chinese market as easy money, but we have to be relevant to the Chinese," Becker said. Attract China, for instance, has helped luxury stores in Manhattan incorporate Jeenie, a live translation app, and add Alipay and WeChat Pay for mobile payments.

Others have also been stepping up their efforts. The Beverly Center mall in Los Angeles caters to busloads of Chinese tourists and mid-size groups. But now it also focuses on small groups of fewer than 10 VIP shoppers, says Susan Vance, the mall's marketing and sponsorship director. The mall has also pushed stores to offer China UnionPay, a digital payment service. More than 100 stores now have it, Vance says, up from three in 2014.

Tourism officials are also catching onto WeChat. In late 2017, Washington, D.C., became the first U.S. city to launch an interactive guide in the app. Chinese travelers can use it to get directions to attractions, access audio tours in Mandarin and find dining and shopping. The city's marketing office has one staff member dedicated to WeChat.

Washington also recently launched a Welcome China program that teaches hotels, restaurants and other venues about Chinese customs and encourages them to offer things like Chinese-language menus or in-room slippers. Forty-four hotels and a handful of restaurants have signed on.

Elliott Ferguson, president and CEO of Destination DC, the city's marketing office, said the number of Chinese tourists visiting Washington doubled in the last five years before falling slightly in 2017. But Ferguson, who traveled to China last month to meet with tourism officials, said there's still significant interest in travel to the U.S.

"We're beefing up our efforts because we see there's so much potential for growth," he said.

LA Times

Black market cannabis shops thrive in L.A. even as city cracks down

By JAMES QUEALLY and BEN WELSH

From the street, it looked like an old-school drug raid.

A half-dozen police and city vehicles sat near the entrance of the White Castle cannabis dispensary near the Los Angeles Harbor, where a sign bearing a giant green cross faced Pacific Coast Highway.

But the cops didn't seize any marijuana from the illegal shop. No one was arrested, just detained briefly while utility workers moved to shut off power. The officers had been there before and would likely be back. One detective guessed the business would be up and running again in a week.

Amid growing complaints from lawmakers and cannabis lobbyists about the city's teeming marketplace for unregulated weed, Los Angeles in recent months has ramped up enforcement against illegal pot dispensaries. But with so much money on the line, many violators are choosing to stay open even after the city has cut off their power or threatened them with arrests or fines.

The state's marijuana market got off to a sluggish start in 2018, with revenue from the first year of legal sales falling \$160 million short of what was projected in former Gov. Jerry Brown's final budget. High taxes and the refusal of many cities to allow legal cannabis sales have been blamed, while those restrictions have allowed a resilient black market to thrive.

Nowhere is that problem more glaring than in Los Angeles, where the number of illegal storefronts rivals legal dispensaries. In what should be the state's most lucrative pot market, many legitimate business operators say they can't compete with the hundreds of stores that are able to sell at a lower price by skirting taxes.

Pot entrepreneurs are running out of patience and money while waiting on L.A. permits
FEB 17, 2019 | 5:00 AM

More than 200 illegal marijuana dispensaries operate in L.A., according to police estimates and a Times review of city records and listings on Weedmaps, a popular online directory for marijuana businesses.

To identify potential scofflaws, The Times compared all storefronts on Weedmaps with a list of businesses granted temporary approval to operate by Los Angeles' Department of Cannabis Regulation. Only 182 marijuana dispensaries have permission to sell weed in the city, records show.

The review, conducted earlier this month, found 365 dispensaries advertised on Weedmaps inside city limits. Of those, more than 220 — 60% of the total — were operating at addresses not on the city's list of legal retailers.

The numbers provide only an estimate of the problem.

Listings on Weedmaps change frequently. Some shops targeted by city enforcement efforts may have shut down since The Times last reviewed the website's listings. But shops that are closed often open under new names, and not every illegal dispensary in the city advertises on the website.

Unregistered dispensaries were running in nearly every corner of Los Angeles, with the highest concentrations downtown and south of the 10 Freeway, The Times analysis found. Twelve can be found on a stretch of Florence Avenue between Crenshaw and Avalon boulevards.

Pot dispensaries in Los Angeles (Ben Welsh and Jon Schleuss / Los Angeles Times)

By mapping the legal and illegal storefronts in the city, The Times found large swaths of downtown and South L.A. are dominated by unlisted dispensaries. Legitimate shops, which can only sell cannabis at locations that meet specific requirements, such as being a certain distance away from a school, are more prevalent in the San Fernando Valley.

Exact statistics on the issue are difficult to find. A representative for the state Bureau of Cannabis Control said the agency did not have readily available data about illegal operators in California, and Los Angeles officials have never made public an exact number of illegal storefronts. The L.A. Police Department, however, has estimated the number of unregistered shops to be "less than 300."

Marijuana advocates say Los Angeles' struggle to curtail illegal activity is more severe than other cities in California, a result of years of allowing marijuana businesses to operate in a quasi-legal status in which they received limited immunity from prosecution.

"This is really a Los Angeles phenomenon ... I can't tell you where there would be an unlicensed dispensary operating in Oakland or San Francisco," said Dale Gieringer, director of California's branch of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Indeed, authorities tasked with overseeing the marijuana industry in San Francisco and Long Beach, said the number of unregulated dispensaries in those cities does not exceed the number of licensed operators.

Owners of legal stores in Los Angeles say illegal shops have a massive competitive advantage, as they offer lower prices by skirting the state's 15% cannabis sales tax as well as the city's 10% rate.

"The frustration for us is twofold," said Carlos de la Torre, who founded the Cornerstone Research Collective in Eagle Rock. "Our businesses are suffering tremendously now because we're having to compete in an unfair playing field, and we've spent all this time and energy and resources crafting something that should be really cut and dry, and it feels like [the city is] not really holding their end of the bargain up."

The proliferation of illegal stores affects marijuana customers, legal owners and government coffers. Aside from undercutting legal operators and curbing tax revenues, city officials are concerned about the health risks posed by stores whose wares are not tested by state regulators.

Some owners contend that many customers don't know the difference between legal and illegal marijuana businesses, and fear they are losing out by complying with state and city tax codes.

"The only bad reviews I get are 'Oh, you're trying to rip us off, these prices are too

expensive,” said Jennou Kilon, owner of the Higher Pain dispensary in Sherman Oaks and president of the United Cannabis Business Assn. “I think a lot of them don’t understand that the cost of doing business has gone up quite a bit.”

Many legal owners say the problem is exacerbated by Weedmaps, a Yelp-like service for marijuana businesses.

“Without the voice that Weedmaps gives, 80% of them would disappear,” De La Torre said.

Weedmaps did not respond to a request for comment.

Despite business owners’ frustrations, the website is something of a double-edged sword: Officials with both the LAPD and the city attorney’s office have said they use the online platform to identify targets for enforcement.

Still, council members and legal operators have criticized those agencies in recent months, arguing that a lack of stringent enforcement has allowed unlawful shops to flourish.

After recreational sales became legal in January 2018, obtaining funding and resources for enforcement has become a tougher sell within the LAPD, said Det. Lou Turriaga, a director with the Los Angeles Police Protective League. Until recently, Turriaga said, the department’s cannabis support unit was operating on a “bare-bones budget.” Local narcotics investigators are unlikely to prioritize enforcement against illicit dispensaries over other kinds of drug crime or violence in their divisions, he said.

The city has signaled it will take cannabis enforcement more seriously this year. Funding has been earmarked for cannabis regulation and a public awareness campaign to help customers learn to spot illegal sellers. **Mayor Eric Garcetti’s** 2019 budget pushes \$10 million toward the LAPD for cannabis enforcement. And an ordinance introduced by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez also could result in illegal dispensary owners, and those they rent property from, having to cover the costs of any enforcement efforts enacted at their business.

Despite the large number of illegal businesses still operating in the city, officials contend they have aggressively pursued the issue. Since early 2018, City Atty. Mike Feuer said, his office has brought charges against more than 850 defendants and shut down 114 storefronts — with “many more on the way.”

Feuer acknowledged the difficulty in permanently shutting down illegal operators. He said many of the stores his office has pursued have returned under different names, sometimes at the same location. Recently, the agency has begun to target property owners and more aggressively impose financial penalties, in the hopes that massive fines will act as deterrents.

Last month Feuer sued a South L.A. dispensary for selling cannabis that had been treated with a fungicide, which could result in millions in damages against the business.

“This is not just a question of supply, it’s also a question of demand,” he said. “I want very much for the message to be clear to potential buyers of recreational marijuana that it’s just not worth the risk to go to an unpermitted location because they don’t test their product and

God knows what's in their product."

In March, the City Council passed an ordinance allowing the Department of Water & Power to shut off utilities at prohibited dispensaries. Shutoffs have been conducted at approximately 90 storefronts in the last two months, according to Det. Vito Ceccia of the LAPD's Gang and Narcotics Division. Most of the early efforts were concentrated in the Valley, though recently the department has begun focusing on outlaw operators in South L.A.

Investigators believe the utility shutoffs are more efficient than serving search warrants in pursuit of criminal prosecutions that will probably result only in misdemeanor charges. On a recent afternoon, utility workers and detectives from the LAPD's Harbor Division cut the power at four illegal shops in less than three hours. Ceccia said they would have been able to execute only one search warrant in the same time frame.

"We see an uptick in these businesses opening up because it's so profitable, especially if they're not paying the taxes they're supposed to be paying," he said. "A majority of them have reopened and that's why we're looking at our partners like DWP to find other resources beyond law enforcement and traditional methods in order to shut these places down."

Police can still seize marijuana and cash from an illegal business if they execute a search warrant in a criminal investigation. But with all criminal penalties for illegal sale or cultivation of marijuana reduced to misdemeanors under Proposition 64, city officials believe civil fines and utility shutdowns are more effective and less labor intensive.

In Los Angeles, Feuer said his office can push for a \$2,500-per-day unfair competition penalty against illegal sellers. Under the voter initiative that established Los Angeles' marijuana market, the city can also seek a \$20,000 daily penalty against illegal operators, though Feuer has rarely used this tactic and said it had yet to be "tested in court."

Many involved in the cannabis industry also have expressed frustration that regulators have been slow to approve dispensary permits — especially those that would fall under a social equity program meant to allow members of communities most affected by criminal marijuana enforcement to get into the legal market.

The city is expected to issue another 250 storefront licenses, which would more than double the number of legal dispensaries in the city, but that process will not begin until September at the earliest, said Sylvia Robledo, public information director for the Department of Cannabis Regulation. The agency expects to be able to issue approximately 400 licenses before it butts up against the city's restrictions against having too many dispensaries concentrated in any particular neighborhood.

The long-term effect of the city's enforcement strategies is unclear.

Although the utility shutdowns have disrupted some operations, many businesses have also simply reopened after obtaining an external generator. The detective who guessed the White Castle dispensary near Wilmington would be back in business in a week was almost right.

An employee confirmed the shop was open when a Times reporter called 10 days later.

Streetsblog LA

By Joe Linton

Purple Line subway celebration, South El Monte bike tour, Metro CEO Phil Washington, and more.

- Thursday 5/30 – The Transit Coalition will host CEO Phil Washington speaking on current developments at Metro. The talk will take place from 6-9 p.m. at Metro headquarters third floor Union Station Conference Room at [1 Gateway Plaza](#), behind Union Station in downtown L.A. Purchase tickets via EventBrite.
- Saturday 6/1 – The city of South El Monte will host a free Community Bike Ride. Ride gathers at 8:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. departure from the South El Monte Community Center at 1530 Central Avenue. Details at South El Monte webpage or Facebook event.
- Sunday 6/2 – Metro will host a community celebration in honor of the Westside Purple Line subway extension phase 1 project passing 50 percent completion. The celebration will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in lawn area of the La Brea Tar Pits Page Museum at [5801 Wilshire Boulevard](#) in Mid-City. Event will include live entertainment, games, raffles, food trucks, family fun zone and remarks by **Mayor Eric Garcetti** and Metro CEO Phil Washington. Details at Facebook event.
- Next week Tuesday 6/4 – Next week will be the city of Los Angeles council district 12 – northwest San Fernando Valley – special election (also on the wider county ballot is school funding measure EE.) To get involved consider volunteering with Bike the Vote L.A.
- Next week Sunday 6/9 – The L.A. County Bicycle Coalition will host the 19th Annual L.A. River Ride. Participants can choose from various rides touring the L.A. River between Griffith Park and Long Beach. Proceeds benefit the Bicycle Coalition's work to make L.A. vibrant, healthy, and sustainable. Sign-up at the LACBC website.

LA School Report

\$500M annual parcel tax unlikely to pass if low voter turnout trend persists, poll shows

By: Taylor Swaak

L.A. Unified's proposed \$500 million annual parcel tax is unlikely to pass next week if low voter turnout trends continue, a new independent poll finds.

The poll, conducted by Probolsky Research, shows that if June 4's special election sees "high" turnout, or 17 percent of the district's 2.5 million eligible voters, the parcel tax could be on the cusp of meeting the two-thirds majority required to pass. But with a "low" turnout of 8 percent — which falls just below the reported turnout for the recent Board District 5 school board race — the odds decrease.

The Measure EE tax would charge residents within L.A. Unified boundaries 16 cents per square foot of developed property, generating an estimated \$6 billion over 12 years for district schools. The tax's supporters, who include district officials, the teachers union and **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, see Measure EE as a necessary investment in the public schools. L.A. Unified also can't currently afford its \$840 million teachers contract — signed after January's strike — and has to fix its grim budget projections to appease county overseers who have threatened a fiscal takeover.

The tax proposal has attracted a swath of vocal advocates and opponents. Yet there's been scant publicized polling on resident sentiment leading up to the vote, said Adam Probolsky, the polling firm's president. The last poll of likely L.A. voters on a parcel tax was conducted in February on behalf of the district.

"When we see this vacuum, this data void [on] something that so many people really care passionately about ... we really think the public should know about it, see it, be able to digest it," Probolsky said. He noted that the polling was done in the public interest and that the organization, which is nonpartisan and isn't linked to any Measure EE campaigns, did not receive funding for the poll from an outside source.

Probolsky Research conducted the poll on May 16 and May 17 with 400 likely L.A. Unified voters who were identified with "random sampling methodology to ensure that the demographic proportions of survey respondents match the composition" of likely voters, according to the poll's stated methodology. Half of the respondents were interviewed by phone; half took an online survey. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points for results based on the full sample. (Read more about how the poll was conducted [here](#).)

The takeaways

If 17 percent of registered voters in L.A. Unified cast a ballot, 61.8 percent would likely vote "yes" and 32 percent would vote "no," the poll found. But 6 percent were a "firm unsure" — making a "yes" vote attainable if campaigning leading up to the election sways the bulk of undecided voters to approve the measure.

If only 8 percent of voters turn out, polling predicted that the best-case scenario for the parcel tax — if all of the "unsure" voters got on board — would be a 62.5 percent approval rate. This would fail to meet the 66.7 percent threshold.

Source: Probolsky Research

An earlier February poll conducted on the heels of the teacher strike found 72 percent and 69 percent of L.A. Unified residents approved a 16 cent per square foot parcel tax in higher and lower turnout cases, respectively.

Fernando Guerra, a professor and founding director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, which conducts the L.A. Votes exit poll, agrees that turnout is paramount to the tax's success. Special elections typically draw 10 percent or less of eligible voters because they don't line up with regularly scheduled elections.

"Residents and voters are more inclined to support the school district today than any time in the past, so that bodes well," he said, citing an LMU survey. "All it is is about turning out the vote."

Next week's election is likely to attract more voters than a school board race because a parcel tax has "a very direct impact" on individuals, Guerra said. But he added that the parcel tax is still facing "a double degree of difficulty" as a special election.

"There needs to be an incredible effort to inform voters, No. 1 that there's an election happening, and then obviously for the proponents, to inform them of the importance of voting 'yes,'" he said.

Board President Mónica García told LA School Report earlier this month that this was the primary focus of L.A. Unified's information campaign. The district's job "is to make sure that our school community [is] having a conversation about impact, [about] 'Yes' or 'No' on EE," she said. "What is it? What does it mean? How does it impact the world of choices?"

Newly seated school board member Jackie Goldberg has also made Measure EE her main focus since her board win. She promoted it on election night and at her swearing-in ceremony.

There have been impassioned arguments for and against the tax. Some of that energy draws from local exasperation with the low achievement scores plaguing the district. When the poll asked the same people who had weighed in on the parcel tax whether they believe students attending L.A. Unified schools get a high-quality education, 44.3 percent said "no" while 35.8 percent responded "yes." The remaining 20 percent were unsure or refrained from answering.

Source: Probolsky Research

Many of those who said they are voting "yes" see new taxpayer revenue as instrumental in moving the needle. "Education requires and deserves a lot more support at this point in time," one potential voter told Probolsky Research.

"It takes money to do everything great," another Measure EE backer said.

Some of those polled who voted no, however — the vast majority of whom denounced any more taxes in general — said it wasn't their job to fix the district. "We're putting out more money than we should be for the education that the kids are getting now," one respondent said.

"I think L.A. Unified School District is poorly run, poorly managed, and I'm not voting for it," another stated. This belief mirrors one of the major arguments of the Vote No on EECampaign, which is spearheaded by business and taxpayer organizations who say the district is unaccountable and are demanding reform before further investment in the school system.

Yusef Robb, the campaign manager for Yes on EE, had not seen the poll and declined to comment on its findings. But he emphasized that there's strong support for the tax.

"LAUSD politics can be quite dramatic and quite divisive, but on Measure EE there is unity amongst all quote-unquote sides for this measure, because it's not a political statement," Robb said. "It's about investing in the basics of our education system."

The low turnout trend

The latest example of the lower turnout trend in local special elections was the May 14 runoff

for school board, where 9.2 percent of Board District 5's more than 314,000 registered voters cast ballots, according to the county's election certification on Friday.

Turnout for that race was lower in predominantly minority, lower-income neighborhoods — a general election trend that's exacerbated by special elections. For example, in the northern part of Board District 5, which is whiter and more affluent, turnout stood at about 10 percent, compared to 4.2 percent in the southern part of the board district, which is almost entirely Latino and lower income, according to initial precinct-by-precinct data.

Across L.A. Unified, at least 4 in 5 students are from low-income families. Nearly three-quarters are Latino.

Suggestions to boost turnout in local elections have included allowing 16-year-olds and undocumented residents to vote in L.A. Unified's elections and curtailing campaign habits of targeting people who already vote consistently.

There are also steps already being taken. L.A. County in March 2020 will start using "vote centers" instead of neighborhood polling places and offer same-day voter registration. L.A. Unified will line up its elections with even-year primary and general elections next year as well.

Guerra said he believes the most effective way to increase turnout and empower voters is to just never hold special elections — period.

"We need to do a much better job in creating elections that matter and getting rid of the obstacles to participate," he said. "Having too many elections dilutes that effort."

Also appeared in: [The 74](#)

Fox and Hounds Daily

Mayoral Mismatch

By Joel Kotkin

Mayors have had little success in becoming president, with only one big-city chief executive, Grover Cleveland of Buffalo, later governor of New York, actually making it to the White House. Yet this year's running of the donkeys includes several: a minor-city chief executive, Pete Buttigieg of South Bend; a former big-city mayor, Cory Booker of Newark; former San Antonio mayor Julian Castro; and John Hickenlooper, formerly chief executive of Denver before becoming Colorado's governor. They may yet be joined by New York's Bill de Blasio. Los Angeles mayor **Eric Garcetti** considered a run but thought better of it, perhaps realizing that his city's burgeoning homeless population and rampant inequality would dog him on the campaign trail. The other mayors' records are not much better than **Garcetti's**, but they didn't hesitate to jump in.

Buttigieg's record is nothing remarkable. South Bend remains plagued by racial tension and a high murder rate. Buttigieg's big challenge, according to Slate's woke take, is whether being gay will make up for the unfortunate reality that he is also white and male, especially given his failure to embrace "the idea of gayness as a cultural framework, formative identity, or anything more than a category of sexual and romantic behavior."

the mayoral environment, even Becker was an improvement over the corrupt Charles Canale, particularly in attracting philanthropic investment, but he left behind the same crime-ridden, impoverished municipality. Castro, as CityLab has noted, operated under a weak-mayor system, and his city's healthy economy owed more to Texas's free-market allure and policies of earlier mayors than to anything that he accomplished. Hickenlooper, a rare species of pragmatic Democrat, was arguably more successful than the others, but his greatest accomplishment, the expansion of Denver's troubled transit system, has become plagued by overruns and declining ridership. In any case, Hickenlooper, the most attractive of the mayoral brood, has made no impression in the polls and seems destined to finish out the race on the sidelines.

As for the ethically challenged de Blasio, he inherited a strong economy, now adjusting down to the national average—which, to be fair, is a lot better than Los Angeles and Chicago, which rank well behind in job creation.

So why mayors for president? A popular notion says that mayors are uniquely positioned to “rule the world,” as political theorist Benjamin Barber put it. City boosters like Parag Khannasee mayors as running the vital and creative parts of the world, and thus as the natural leaders of the future. But much of this thinking misses an important qualification concerning population. Reporters frequently see big-city mayors as representatives of the vast, economically dominant metropolitan areas. But in nearly every American major metro, including even New York, the population of the core municipality is topped by that of the metro periphery. In New York, de Blasio presides over less than 45 percent of the metro-area population; in some cities, like Atlanta and Miami, the mayor governs less than one in ten regional residents. On average, little more than one-quarter of major metropolitan area residents live in the core municipalities, many in neighborhoods little different than the suburbs around them.

Contrary to what you might hear in the mainstream press, Americans are not flocking to core cities. Big-city mayors are, in relative terms, losing constituents. Last year, the counties containing America's three largest cities—New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago—all lost population. Since 2010, a net 1.8 million people have moved away from the urban core counties of major metropolitan areas, largely to lower-density counties. As they start owning property, getting married, and having children, millennials are driving this trend. Since 2010, 80 percent of millennial population growth has been in the suburbs, where single-family houses predominate. New York City now suffers the largest net annual outmigration of post-college millennials (ages 25 to 34) of any metro area—some 38,000 annually—followed by Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Diego. New York's losses are 75 percent higher than during the previous five-year period.

The view that dense core cities will dominate the future is misplaced. It's the metropolitan areas—from the core to the far periphery—that really matter. In some cases, notably New York, the cores remain the most pivotal places in the metro areas, but Gotham is an exception to an increasingly multipolar urban landscape. For most mayors, prosperity relies on their relationship with the periphery; cities without viable suburbs and beyond will find themselves unable to hold onto employees as they age.

A common argument for the central importance of mayors is economic. In some industries—social media, high finance, communications, and tourism—a few big cities, such as New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco, have achieved considerable dominance.

But, since 2010, more than 60 percent of metropolitan job growth, particularly that which employs middle-class workers, has taken place in the suburbs. This is not a matter of low-income jobs concentrating on the periphery. In reality, lower-density areas account for the vast majority of new patents, a key indicator of competitive economic innovation. Since 1970, according to a recent Harvard study, suburbs have outperformed their urban counterparts in terms of jobs, income, and educational achievement; despite the urban “boom” earlier this century, the pattern remained very much the same since 2000.

Cities and suburbs play different roles in the innovation economy. Core cities excel at innovation detached from the physical world, but tech companies that actually make things or apply innovation to the physical world are moving to suburban areas, such as north Dallas—home to several former California companies, including McKesson and Toyota America—or, in Apple’s case, to suburban Williamson County, outside Austin. They need the space and the access to mature talent that gravitates to suburban neighborhoods.

The employment patterns of large cities—dependent on high-wage, high-education-dependent sectors—also tend to accentuate the inequality that progressive mayors complain so much about. Indeed, according to Pew, the largest gaps between the bottom and top quintiles are found in the most progressive metropolitan areas: San Francisco, New York, San Jose, Los Angeles, and Boston are the five least-equal cities in America. In all these “superstar” cities, the middle-class family is rapidly disappearing, even as poverty remains stubbornly high. Teachers, firemen, and police officers struggle to afford homes in many American cities, according to a study from Trulia. This pricing-out also applies to many skilled blue-collar professionslike technicians, construction workers, and mechanics. In California, according to a recent study, not one union construction worker could afford a median-priced house in Los Angeles, San Francisco, or surrounding areas.

Yo! Venice

MTA Bridge Housing Operator Chosen, Injunction Denied

By Sam Catanzaro

A homeless shelter in the heart of Venice will open this summer and be operated by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), Councilmember Mike Bonin recently announced.

On May 16, the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority selected PATH along with Safe Place for Youth (SPY) to manage and operate the bridge housing facility set to open in Venice this summer.

PATH, one of the nation’s most successful and respected homeless service providers, will be the lead operator of the site and will work with the Venice-based SPY, which will also provide services at the temporary facility, which will provide 100 beds for adults and 54 beds for youth.

“I am thrilled to be moving forward with such an excellent team,” said Councilmember Mike Bonin. “PATH and SPY are highly regarded service providers with a history of success, years of experience in the community, and a great track record of working with neighbors. I am confident they will make Bridge Home Venice a success.”

The 154-bed homeless shelter, part of Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti’s** A Bridge Home program, will be located on the 3.15-acre lot that takes up an entire block between Pacific

venues and main street south of Sunset. Under this program, Mayor Garcetti asked every Councilmember to look at encampments in their district and to find locations for bridge housing.

MTA closed the lot in 2015 after receiving multiple offers from developers interested in the site. The property can be used for housing for the next three years, however, because there is no deal in place.

The project has not been without controversy. Opponents have raised issue with the shelter's location, worrying that the site will disrupt the mostly residential neighborhood. In addition, there has been concern raised about the housing being within a 1,000-foot radius of Westminster Elementary School.

Less than a week before PATH and SPY were announced as the operators for the facility, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge denied an injunction that would have halted construction the homeless shelter.

On May 10, Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff said that the City of Los Angeles could proceed with the construction of the 154-bed homeless shelter.

The judge noted that objections expressed by neighbors, namely that the shelter would disrupt a residential neighborhood, were understandable, but agreed with the city's claim that not building the shelter would provide greater harm to residents now living on sidewalks.

Councilmember Mike Bonin applauded the decision saying "I am enormously grateful for this decision, which allows us to move forward. No one deserves to live on a sidewalk, and no one deserves to have encampments in their neighborhoods."

PATH, which practices the nationally-recognized Housing First approach, operates three other bridge housing locations in Los Angeles. The organization, started on the Westside in the 1980s, provides short-term and permanent housing, case management, medical and mental healthcare, benefits advocacy, employment training, and other services. Since 2013, PATH has connected more than 8,500 people to permanent homes.

"Bridge housing is an important first step in the process of moving our most vulnerable into permanent supportive housing," said Jennifer Hark-Dietz, Deputy CEO of PATH. "Venice Bridge Home is a sign of progress and it is of the utmost importance that elected officials, landlords, the nonprofit sector and neighborhood leaders continue to work together to find and build housing for those in need."

SPY, founded in 2011 in Venice, serves homeless youth, ages 12-25. The group provides transitional housing, street outreach, drop-in services, case management, health and wellness, education and employment programs.

"Having access to Bridge Housing is critical when working on providing stability to youth experiencing homelessness," said Alison Hurst, Executive Director of Safe Place for Youth. "An alternative to the streets will give young people the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive living environment, while we work with them on long term solutions for their homeless crisis."

Both agencies have experience in the community. Several years ago, PATH helped house more than 100 people who were living in their vehicles in Venice and recently partnered with Los Angeles World Airports to serve and successfully house people living in large encampments near LAX. The organization operates transitional housing in West LA and provides permanent supportive housing at a building in Del Rey. SPY launched in Venice, focuses its services there, and has its headquarters and drop-in center there. SPY also jointly operates bridge housing for youth at locations in Mar Vista and Westwood.

The City of Los Angeles has opened 4 bridge housing facilities, has approved 12 others, and is evaluating 10 other locations. A second bridge housing site in Bonin's council district — 100 beds for homeless veterans — is under construction in Brentwood on the VA campus.

Bridge Home Venice, located on a Metro-owned former bus yard on Main Street, near some of Venice's largest encampments, will open in late summer. Construction will begin on the site in a few weeks.

HR Technologist

The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation Partners with Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology to pilot WorkforceReady

By Mayuri Chaudhary

The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, a nonprofit organization formed by learning and human capital management software provider Cornerstone OnDemand (CSOD), has announced a new partnership with the Bixel Exchange Center for Innovation & Technology. The Center, a division of the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce non-profit organization, is dedicated to connecting underserved talent to opportunity through entrepreneurship and workforce development. Working with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation, Bixel Exchange will pilot WorkforceReady, a free online learning program designed to help job seekers build the foundational skills required to be successful in today's work environment.

According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs report, "human" skills like collaboration, initiative, and critical thinking are becoming increasingly important in the modern workforce. But many of today's job seekers aren't receiving training for the non-technical skills that are necessary to both find and keep a job. Skills including job interview preparation, networking, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking are particularly lacking in workers who have been disconnected from the workforce or who are entering the job market for the first time.

HR Technology News: Absorb Software Announces Acquisition of Torch LMS

WorkforceReady will help bridge the learning gap of the new workforce. This program will offer short, online courses for students to develop these essential non-technical skills. The program leverages Cornerstone's 20 years of expertise in learning technology and people development and will help participants across industries become job-ready.

In collaboration with Bixel Exchange, WorkforceReady will launch a pilot program this summer with students participating in Bixel Exchange's L.A. Tech Talent Pipeline program. The L.A. Tech Talent Pipeline, a partnership with L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**, connects low-income, diverse students to careers in the technology and creative economy sectors.

WorkforceReady will provide free, online courses designed to ensure these students are prepared for opportunities with Bixel Exchange's participating companies.

This partnership with the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation will ensure the students entering the program will have the requisite skills to transition and contribute to their new workplace. The Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation plans to add more organizations to the pilot program in the coming months.

"One of the most successful ways to place someone in a job and increase job retention is through the full spectrum of professional training," says Julie Brandt, executive director, the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation. "We're excited about the opportunity for WorkforceReady to make this training accessible to a wider audience."

"Talent is equally distributed. Opportunity is not. Our mission is to connect talent to opportunity," said Sean Arian, president, and co-founder of Bixel Exchange.

"WorkforceReady will allow us to better prepare students for the dynamic job market, and ultimately create more career pathways for students in the LA area."

Liberation News

The struggle is in the streets: LA's ruling class attacks the houseless

By Katerina Moore

Planters filled with succulents and cacti, sidewalk art installations, narrow benches with armrests. These decorative accents are seen in cities across the United States, but we should not be fooled by their ornamental facade. They're examples of a phenomenon known as "hostile architecture" – the component pieces of our built environment carefully designed to ward off unwanted occupants – and, according to emails obtained through the California Public Records Act, part of a calculated effort by the City of Los Angeles and its ruling class to further displace people experiencing homelessness. According to the latest 2019 homeless count in Los Angeles County, this population now consists of over 50,000 people.

Although houseless people face hostility and humiliation anywhere they are forced to stay, Los Angeles has doubled down on its campaign of hostility in the wake of a homelessness crisis that has reached epidemic proportions. In a disturbing chain of emails published by MichaelKohlhaas.org, a blog by investigative journalists exposing local treatment of the homeless population, city officials and local business owners brainstormed ways to ways to drive out residents without permanent shelter.

"Is there an update on how we can stop the encampment being provided with fresh, untouched food?" asked Rebecca Vasak of JAHZ Properties. After a long email chain and several closed door meetings with law enforcement representatives, the group agreed to collectively cover sidewalks with unauthorized planters and community art under the guise of "beautification," forcing people experiencing homelessness to move their tents elsewhere.

Adrian Riskin, a writer for MichaelKohlhaas.org, spoke to Liberation News about the war being waged on houseless Angelenos. Riskin explained that although the creation of hostile environments is a tactic with a long history in LA, the problem goes much deeper than illegal sidewalk planters. "An environment can be made hostile towards the homeless by privatizing it," he said. Special Enforcement Zones, for example, are areas in which the LAPD practices what Riskin describes as "hyper-enforcement of anti-homeless laws," ostensibly in protection

of the needs of local businesses.

Nowhere is the influence of private interest on public space more aggressive than in Hollywood's Business Improvement District, where private security guards – collectively funded by local businesses – collaborate with the LAPD to arrest houseless people at rates unseen in the rest of the city. Although fewer than 300 residents experiencing homelessness live within the district at any given time, the number of arrests made by BID patrols exceeded 1,000 per year in recent years.

That number has dropped (largely due to scrutiny from MichaelKohlhaas.org, according to public records), but the criminalization of homelessness continues in the Hollywood BID and beyond. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, private security employees outnumber LAPD officers in the Los Angeles area by over seven to one, comprising unaccountable private armies mobilized by the rich to defend their property.

Los Angeles City Council has passed a multitude of laws that are unmistakably meant to punish unsheltered people. Sitting or lying on the sidewalk is prohibited, and “bulky items” can't be stored on the sidewalk (except tents, but they must be taken down between the hours of 6 am-9 pm). Urinating in public is illegal, even if there are no public restrooms nearby. The LA City Council additionally voted recently to extend harsh restrictions on sleeping in cars – restrictions which activists say are tantamount to a ban. Although these ordinances can also affect people with reliable shelter, Riskin says the discretionary basis on which the LAPD and BID security guards enforce them show clearly that their primary purpose is to push people experiencing homelessness out of areas where powerful people don't want them to be visible.

As senior LAPD officer Eddie Guerra said in the email chain about sidewalk planters: “We are in the displacement business.” Business, clearly, is booming. Los Angeles was home to an estimated 52,765 houseless people in 2018 – including roughly 5,000 children, 4,000 veterans, 5,000 elderly people, and 3,000 people fleeing domestic violence. Over 25 percent of Angelenos experiencing homelessness have a serious mental illness, and another 15 percent battles a substance use disorder. Even though LA **Mayor Eric Garcetti** anticipates a “double-digit increase” this year, the city's response to the crisis continues to be ineffectual at best, with unfulfilled promises to build fifteen temporary shelters that would house a tiny fraction of those who need shelter.

The failure to support the tens of thousands of Angelenos experiencing homelessness isn't, as **Garcetti** claims, due to a lack of resources – in Los Angeles, an economic hub of the most prosperous state in the country, the failure is due entirely to a lack of political will. Studies show that providing permanent supportive housing for those who are chronically houseless actually saves money. The only reason we lack the resources to sufficiently address homelessness is because those resources are being boarded and used elsewhere—such as the construction of a \$2.2 billion luxury office building for city employees.

It would be foolish to expect local government to solve the crisis in any meaningful way, because the “displacement business” is an excellent investment. The wealthy elite need to blame homelessness on those experiencing it. Surely their circumstances are the result of poor decisions, laziness, some fundamental flaw in their very being. We need to keep them off the sidewalks—in fact, get them out of the city. We don't want to look at them.

And here lies the crux of the matter. If people experiencing homelessness weren't made invisible, we would be forced to confront the crisis directly – and that would mean confronting the system that not only allows homelessness to exist, but necessarily preserves its existence.

Under capitalism, our basic necessities – food, housing, healthcare, work – aren't guaranteed. Edible food is destroyed to artificially inflate prices while children go hungry. National homelessness statistics tell us that an estimated 553,000 people sleep in the streets each night, while nearly 6 million housing units sit vacant. The exorbitant price of healthcare causes people to die of preventable illnesses every day.

Anyone taking a cursory look at the immense wealth that already exists in this country will see that we have more than what is needed to fulfill the material needs of society. With a rationally planned socialist economy, we can harness our full productive capacity to guarantee housing, food, healthcare, and employment to every person in the United States. This is the task ahead of the U.S. working class—we must organize and fight, because changing the streets of the United States can change the streets of the world.

The Bulwark

The Democratic Debates Are Going To Be a Clownshow

by MOLLY JONG-FAST

Debate me, you coward! You, too! And you and you and you and you and you!

We're a month from the first tranche of Democratic debates in Miami. Florida has not been good to the Democratic party, but I'm sure this time will be different. Besides the obvious appeal of alligators and meth, there's nothing quite as delicious as summer in the tropics.

And it's hard not to notice the very obvious differences from the last primary cycle. For one thing, instead of a race between two people and the guy who was a character on *The Wire*, we have binders full of candidates.

How many? As of this writing, we have 23 declared candidates—and that's after a whole slew of kind-of, sort-of pols tip-toed up to the water's edge before pulling back. You might think 23 is a lot—it's probably 15 too many, to be honest—but we could easily have been at 28 if Stacey Abrams, Sherrod Brown, Mike Bloomberg, **Eric Garcetti**, and Deval Patrick had run. And all of them took good, hard looks at the race.

This bumper crop of candidates is going to require that the Democratic National Committee do things a little differently. This time, they're not with her, or him, or anyone, and this time they're not going to let their emails get hacked by the Ruskies and released by the albino rapist who lives in the cupboard under the stairs. No sirree. They're going to things totally differently this time.

And the first step is presenting all of these luscious candidates to voters in the best, most logical manner possible. So the DNC is bending over backward to create the most fair, inclusive, respectful, diverse, and enormous debate stage ever. The DNC will not have a kids' table, unlike the GOP's 2016 debate.

It's to the DNC's credit that they have been incredibly transparent about how to get into the

debates. And it's actually pretty easy. Maybe even too easy. Okay, real talk. It's definitely too easy. For example if you have a full Subway rewards card, you can choose a spot in the debates or a free sub. As of right now there are approximately one trillion people qualified to be in the debates, including a small-town Midwestern mayor, the congresswoman from Hawaii, and a retired tech guy. Because God is just, wise, and hilarious, the mayor of New York City (and noted groundhog slayer) has not yet qualified.

But the truth is, there really are going to be way too many candidates onstage to make the debates anything other than a clusterfuck of clusterfuckery. Right now, you can qualify for the debate by either having 65,000 people to donate to you, or by polling over 1 percent in three DNC-approved polls. But all of that may change, and in fact it has! As I was working on this piece the DNC announced a new rule change in which candidates polling over 2 percent will be randomly allocated between the two debates, so as to prevent from having a kids' table.

I know what you're thinking: Wait a minute. Most polls have a margin of error around +/-4 points. Which means that any candidate polling under 4 percent is basically within the margin of error and that pretending that there's any meaningful statistical difference between a candidate at 1 percent and a candidate at 2 percent is kind of mathematically illiterate.

But wait, there's more: The DNC also decided that the total participation will be capped at 20. Which means that three of the major ("major"?) candidates won't be invited.

And here's where it gets positively bananas: The Hill says that 19 people have already qualified. The pointy-heads at FiveThirtyEight figures that the real number is 20. (Even people who do this for a living can't keep it all perfectly straight.) But everyone agrees that one of the people sure to be onstage will be Marianne Williamson. Whom you may remember from her role as officiant at Elizabeth Taylor's wedding. Or as besties with Oprah. Or from being a spiritual advisor to Cher. (Reminder: Bill de Blasio, the current mayor of New York City, will not make the debates. But Marianne Williamson will. Just sit with that for a moment.)

So, what happens now? Well, if anyone else qualifies, then the DNC will put into effect its hastily drawn-up tiebreak rules.

Here's FiveThirtyEight trying valiantly to explain them:

If more than 20 candidates qualify under the first set of debate rules, then meeting both the polling and donor requirements will become very important—candidates who do so will get first dibs on debate lecterns. After that, though, things start to get complicated.

If more than 20 candidates hit both the polling and donor thresholds, the 20 candidates with the highest polling average would be included in the debate. . . .

If fewer than 20 candidates meet both standards but more than 20 qualify via the polling method, those who meet both criteria would qualify first and the remaining spots would be filled by those with the highest polling average. To calculate this, the DNC is planning to average the top three survey results for each candidate, rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. That is, the tiebreaker will be calculated using the polls where a candidate performed best, not necessarily the most recent polls. If that average results in a tie for the

last spot(s) on the stage, the tied candidates will be ranked by the total number of qualifying polls they submitted to the DNC.

However, if fewer than 20 candidates hit both qualifying criteria and fewer than 20 qualify via the polling method, the DNC and its media partners (NBC and Telemundo in June and CNN in July) would first invite all candidates who reach both the polling and donor thresholds and then any others who meet the polling requirement. After that, the remaining debate slots would be filled by those who have the highest number of unique donors.

Seems simple enough. I'm sure Democrats across this great land of ours will see the wisdom and fairness in DNC chairman Tom Perez' plan.

Or, as a consultant for one of the Democratic campaigns put it, "Tom Perez is such a goddamned weenie."

In fairness to Perez, being chairman of the DNC right now might be the worst job in America. Because realistically speaking, what is he supposed to do with these debates?

It's easy to say that Mike Gravel shouldn't be on the debate stage, because he's 89, he's a former senator from Alaska, he's not doing events, and his "campaign" is basically a stalking horse for a bunch of really adorable anti-war teenagers.

And it's easy to say that the big five—Biden, Bernie, Mayor Pete, Elizabeth Warren, and Kamala Harris—should be in.

And it's comparatively easy to say that the next tier of serious candidates with actual campaigns—Cory Booker and Beto—should be there.

After that? If the rest of the field was comprised of just Hickenlooper, Gillibrand, and Inslee, you'd just say, Fine. Come on in.

But it's not just those three. It's those three plus thirteen other people. All of whom pretty much live in the same tiny sliver within the margin of error.

And because the Democratic National Committee is killing itself to show maximum transparency, it doesn't want to be seen as thumbing the scales against Mean Amy or the Groundhog Slayer or Mr. Clean.

And look, maybe the DNC is right not to. Maybe the insane 17-level tiebreaker system won't actually matter because no one down at that end of the spectrum is going to end up as the nominee, anyway.

But on the other hand, as Chris Christie showed, a skilled, motivated loser is perfectly capable of mortally wounding a real contender on a debate stage.

At some point, Perez might have to start thinking less about hurting the feelings of the people who aren't going to be his party's nominee, and more about advancing the prospects of the people who might be.

THE NEXT WAVE OF SUSTAINABILITY FROM L.A. FASHION

By Noah Staum

Los Angeles restated its commitment to being a sustainability leader last month with **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** announcement of LA's Green New Deal.

Meanwhile, local brands are quietly making progress in one of the largest polluting industries in the world: fashion.

As a fashion mecca, the culture and leadership of LA's fashion designers and boutiques are important influencers. However, the fashion industry has many long-rooted unsustainable practices that continue to drain the earth of premium resources and add to its pollution problem.

Most significantly, Global Fashion Agenda predicts that the industry's water consumption will grow 150 percent to 31.7 trillion gallons per year by 2030 and its carbon waste will balloon to 148 million tons.

The overarching problem is complex and deeply rooted in existing production, sourcing, and purchasing patterns. Since the fashion industry is one of the largest in the world, it also has one of the longest supply chains, generating more pollutants and waste. Many industry leaders question the viability of a large-scale sustainable fashion enterprise in the context of the success and popularity of the fast fashion industry (Zara, H&M, Forever21, and the like).

In response, several fashion brands have emerged in LA with a focus on sustainability. They aim to become leaders in changing the fashion industry's longstanding practices.

[GALERIE.LA](#)

Celebrity stylist Dechel Mckillian created [GALERIE.LA](#) in 2015 to curate brands that create "fashion with integrity." Mckillian has used her clout from working with the likes of Drake, Nicki Minaj, the Black Eyed Peas, and more to bring an focus on sustainable fashion into the overall industry without sacrificing style and design. Around 40 percent of the products she carries are sourced from LA.

CHRISTY DAWN

Christy Dawn is one of the most well known LA sustainable fashion brands on Instagram. Not only does the brand — the namesake of its creator — exemplify the essence of LA fashion, it is also completely transparent about its sourcing, design, and production processes. Because they use a local supply chain, it's easy to follow. All of their pieces are made in LA from deadstock fabric (surplus or incorrect fabrics from other brands that couldn't be used).

"Textile production and printing requires the use of hundreds of toxic chemicals. We couldn't in good faith create our own fabrics knowing that we'd be adding to an already alarming environmental problem. We all have a responsibility to ask 'How can we minimize our impact on the environment?'" Dawn said in an interview with Forbes last year.

REFORMATION

Similar to Christy Dawn, Reformation uses deadstock fabric and recycled fabrics to produce all of their pieces. The brand puts "sustainability at the core of everything," which is why they publish annual sustainability reports for the public to see. The reports include their carbon footprint and progress the business has made to improve sustainability from year to year.

ALTERNATIVE APPAREL

The name of this quaint looking shop in Venice says it all. Alternative Apparel offers more universal sustainable fashion for men, women, and children. They focus on producing comfortable, casual fashion basics like t-shirts, sweatshirts, and jeans — anything that's a staple of your wardrobe. To minimize their waste packaging waste, they use biodegradable mailers for their online shop. The practice also reduces water use and minimizes CO2 waste.

LACAUSA

Lacausa puts their money where their mouth is when it comes to sustainability and support the local LA community. After all, "La Causa" is Spanish for "the cause." In addition to practicing sustainable production right in LA, Lacausa donates a portion of all their sales to various charities. Rebecca Grenell started the brand in 2013.

"We're very serious about working with fair factories and vendors," Grenell said to Racked.



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